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WOMEN & MSMEs
FROM HUSTLE TO LEGACY

""Balance the Scales,"...theme reflects both a challenge and a promise—an invitation to build a Belize where fairness is lived, where dignity is upheld, and where women and girls can stand on equal ground."
– Minister Thea Garcia Ramirez

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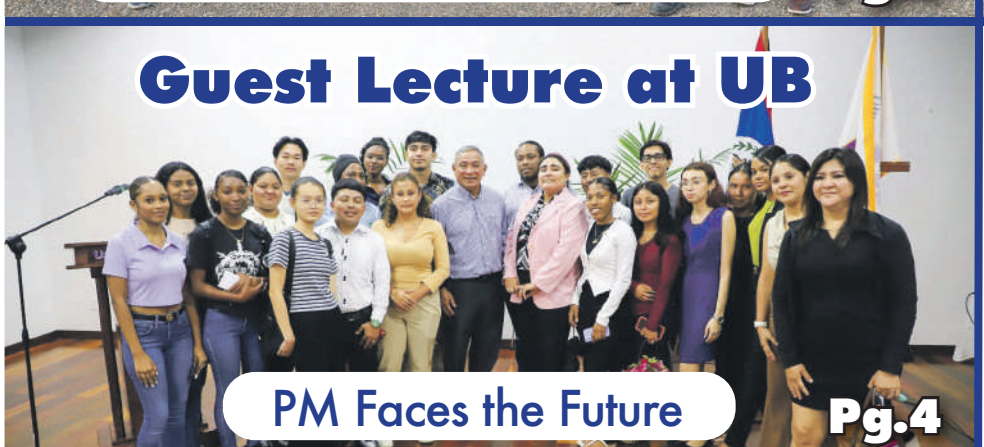

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Women & MSMEs
From Hustle to Legacy
Honouring Women, Empowering Nation

March 19, 2026 - Fourteen exceptional Belizean women were celebrated at the twenty-first Outstanding Women's Awards Ceremony, marking a powerful highlight of Women's Month 2026. Hosted by the National Women's Commission, the Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs, and the Special Envoy for the Development of Families and Children, the event recognized leadership, resilience, and service across diverse sectors of national life.

Minister of Human Development

Hon. Thea Garcia-Ramirez underscored the importance of this year's theme, "Balance the Scales," noting, *"This theme reflects both a challenge and a promise—an invitation to build a Belize where fairness is lived, where dignity is upheld, and where women and girls can stand on equal ground."* She added that the awards remain a cornerstone of Women's Month, celebrating both established leaders and emerging voices, including young girls making meaningful contributions.

Special Envoy H.E. Mrs. Rossana Briceño emphasized the purpose be-

hind the celebration, stating, *"Balancing the scales is not about taking anything; it is about correcting what has long been unbalancing."* She highlighted the quiet yet powerful work of women across Belize, adding that recognition serves as encouragement for continued impact and national development.

Executive Director of the National Women's Commission Eleanor Murillo pointed to the evolution of the awards over its twenty-one-year history. *"This year is different because under the priority area girl child, we had five awardees, which shows that not only women but also our young girls are doing a great job within their communities."*

Among those honored was a youth advocate, is sixteen year old Kallij Pop, who spoke about her passion for advocacy and leadership. *"I love attending workshops and making my voice be heard because as a young woman, it is very important that our ideas are shared with the world,"* she shared, noting her ongoing work in autism awareness.

The recognition of these women set the tone for broader national efforts aimed at empowerment and inclusion.

The momentum continued with the 4th Annual Women's Empowerment Forum hosted by the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry in partnership with the Development Finance Corporation. Focused on the theme "From Survival to Scale: Financing Women for Growth," the forum brought together entrepreneurs, policymakers, and development partners to address access to capital and business sustainability. The guest speaker's remarks were presented by Mrs. Narda Garcia, CEO in the Office of the Prime Minister, with responsibility for the Ministry of Investment and Civil Aviation, "Call to Action: To the women in this room: Your informality is not a weakness; it is an incubator. You have survived. Now, it is time to thrive. Step forward. Formalize. Demand a seat. Seek partnerships. Your time in the shadows is over."

BCCI CEO Kim Aikman described the initiative as essential, stating, *"Empowering women is not simply a social cause—it is an economic imperative."* A call to action encouraged women to formalize their businesses, build partnerships, and take their rightful place in the economy.

At the community level, empowerment efforts extended to Corozal Bay, where a financial literacy workshop provided practical tools for families. Led by Hon. Thea

Garcia-Ramirez and supported by the United Women's Groups, the session equipped participants with strategies for financial management and economic stability, reinforcing grassroots development.

In the private sector, the Belize Bank launched the third cohort of its Girls4Tech programme in partnership with Mastercard, targeting nearly three hundred primary school students. Executive Chairman Filipo Alario highlighted the programme's impact, stating, *"The value that this program gives the girls is unique and very interactive."*

Mastercard's Country Manager, Soledad Rovira, added, *"The program was created to inspire girls to explore careers in STEM fields."*

Chief Banking Officer Monica Daryanani Urbina encouraged participants to embrace innovation, reminding them, *"Every barrier is an opportunity to break it."*

Meanwhile, the government continues to expand economic opportunities for women through the growing BPO sector. Following discussions with Transparent BPO, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño

announced plans to expand home-based employment, particularly in rural communities. This initiative is expected to create more flexible job opportunities for women, allowing them to balance work and family responsibilities while contributing to national growth.

From national recognition to community workshops, corporate initiatives, and employment expansion, Belize's approach to women's empowerment is both comprehensive and forward-looking. The Outstanding Women's Awards stand not only as a celebration of achievement but as a reminder of the work still to be done.

As the country continues to "Balance the Scales," one message resonates clearly: the success of every woman should be an inspiration to another. We should raise each other. (See Voice of the Common Man on page 14)

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EDITORIAL

FINANCING WOMEN FOR GROWTH

Women in Belize have undergone a meteoric rise in their direct impact on the Belizean economy, especially post-COVID. This rise has inspired the Women Empowerment Forum theme, "From Survival to Scale – Financing Women for Growth."

We often speak about economic growth in terms of Gross Domestic Product, Foreign Direct Investment, and infrastructure mega projects. But today I want to talk about the most powerful, yet invisible, engine of our economy: the woman selling produce by the roadside, the seamstress operating a single sewing machine in her living room, the nail-tech who makes our nails glow and hands beautiful, the caterer cooking for community events or selling food at the corners of our villages, towns and cities...whether it be tacos, rice and beans or dukunu, etc. and whose food is legendary, but whose business has no nameplate.

The journey of these women has been from informal to influential. To elevate, we must first acknowledge where we stand. Across our region and indeed globally, women are disproportionately represented in the informal economy. They are survivors. They are the ones who stretch the dollar to feed a family, who juggle childcare with commerce, who keep the lights on through sheer grit. But for too long, "survival" has been the ceiling for our women…not the floor. Operating informally means operating in the shadows; it means no access to credit, no safety net, no voice in the chambers where policy is made. It means your growth is capped not by your talent or skill, but by your lack of visibility. If we want to scale our economy, we must scale these businesses. And we cannot scale what we cannot see.

The shift from informal to influential means losing the resilience and community-rootedness that define these enterprises. It means formalising not just for the sake of paperwork, but for the sake of power. It means transforming a hustle into a legacy. It means moving from being a price-taker to a market maker. An influential woman-owned business is one that sits at the table when supply chain contracts are being awarded. It is one that banks compete to finance. It is one that exports beyond borders. It is one that hires other women, creating a multiplier effect of prosperity.

It means you become a Marie Sharp, someone who began her business in her kitchen and is now synonymous with Belize. She has become the "Taste of Belize". She reminds us that one of the greatest reasons she started her business was to help women in the Pomona Valley. And that is exactly what she continues to do today.

The role of the Office of the Prime Minister and the government is not that of a benefactor, but that of an architect.

Let's focus on four key pillars to make this elevation a reality. First, the Pillar of Visibility, since we cannot manage what we do not measure. We are leveraging technology to map the informal sector. We are simplifying business registration, reducing red tape, and creating one-stop shops where a woman can formalise her business in hours, not months. We are moving from "informal" to "registered" because registration is the first step toward influence. Given the registration issues faced by MSMEs, the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Investment launched a fiscal incentive business tax amnesty program in 2025 that attracted applications from more than 900 micro and small enterprises. This program made us aware of several issues affecting MSMEs, especially microenterprises and start-up investments. It elucidated critical barriers that stymie micro enterprises' formalisation, growth, and development, and strongly indicated the need for further government intervention to ensure that MSMEs operate within the formal setting of the Belizean economy. The government is now drafting a "Micro Enterprise Incentives and Regulatory Relief Act." The intention for this new legislation is to provide incentives and simplified regulatory procedures for micro enterprises; to reduce administrative burdens under the Belize Tax Service Act, the Belize Companies Act, the Trade Licensing Act, and other relevant laws; to promote formalisation, growth, and access to government services.

Next is The Pillar of Capital. MSMEs moving from "From Survival to Scale" means survival finance, microloans, and scale finance (growth capital). The Government of Belize, with the assistance of the InterAmerican Development Bank, are securing venture capital for MSMEs. It is reported that approximately 50% of these MSMEs are women-owned. We are creating blended finance instruments and credit guarantee schemes that look at your cash flow, not just your collateral. Because we understand that a woman who has managed a household budget on a shoestring and kept a business afloat through crisis is not high-risk; she is high-reward.

The third Pillar of Market Access comes via the Ministry of Civil Aviation, which is not just about planes and airports; it is about connectivity. It is about logistics. It is about opening our nation to the world. The government is actively working to integrate women-owned businesses into the procurement supply chains of our airports, hospitality sectors, and export corridors. Whether it is getting your perishable goods on the first flight out or catering to international lounges, we are building the on-ramps.

Fourth is the Pillar of Capacity, influenced by the 21st-century demands for digital fluency. We are rolling out programs to ensure women-owned businesses can navigate e-commerce, digital payments, and financial management systems. We are moving them from cash-in-hand to data-driven enterprises that can attract serious investment.

To all women: Your informality is not a weakness; it is an incubator. You have survived. Now is the time to thrive. Step forward. Formalize. Demand a seat. Seek partnerships. Your time in the shadows is over.

To the investors and corporations: Look beyond the balance sheet. Look at the grit. Look at market knowledge. Look at the loyalty of the customer base that women command. Investing in women is not charity; it is the highest-yielding investment strategy available.

As we look toward 2026 and beyond, the national story will be written not just in the skyscrapers we build, but in the small businesses we grow. A nation that elevates its women from the informal tent stalls to the influential boardrooms is a nation that builds an unshakeable economy. Let us work together to ensure that every woman with a dream and a product has the wings—and the runway—to fly.

en Español

FINANCIACIÓN DE LAS MUJERES PARA EL CRECIMIENTO

Las mujeres de Belice han experimentado un aumento meteórico en su impacto directo en la economía beliceña, especialmente tras el COVID-19. Este aumento ha inspirado el lema del Foro para el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres: «De la supervivencia a la expansión: financiación de las mujeres para el crecimiento».

A menudo hablamos del crecimiento económico en términos de Producto Interior Bruto, de inversión extranjera directa y de megaproyectos de infraestructura. Pero hoy quiero hablar del motor más poderoso, aunque invisible, de nuestra economía: la mujer que vende productos agrícolas al borde de la carretera, la costurera que maneja una sola máquina de coser en su salón, la manicurista que hace que nuestras uñas brillen y nuestras manos sean hermosas, la proveedora de catering que cocina para eventos comunitarios o vende comida en las esquinas de nuestros pueblos y ciudades... ya sean tacos, arroz con frijoles o dukunu, etc., y cuya comida es legendaria, pero cuyo negocio no tiene nombre.

El recorrido de estas mujeres ha ido de lo informal a lo influyente. Para ascender, primero debemos reconocer dónde nos encontramos. En toda nuestra región y, de hecho, a nivel mundial, las mujeres están representadas de manera desproporcionada en la economía informal. Son supervivientes. Son las que estiran el dinero para alimentar a una familia, las que compaginan el cuidado de los hijos con el comercio, las que mantienen las luces encendidas por pura determinación. Pero durante demasiado tiempo, la «supervivencia» ha sido el techo para nuestras mujeres… no el suelo. Operar de manera informal significa operar en la sombra; significa no tener acceso al crédito, no tener red de seguridad, no tener voz en las cámaras donde se elaboran las políticas. Significa que tu crecimiento no está limitado por tu talento ni por tus habilidades, sino por tu falta de visibilidad. Si queremos hacer crecer nuestra economía, debemos hacer crecer estos negocios. Y no podemos hacer crecer lo que no vemos.

El paso de lo informal a lo influyente implica perder la resiliencia y el arraigo en la comunidad que definen a estas empresas. Significa formalizarse no solo por el papeleo, sino también por el poder. Significa transformar un negocio de supervivencia en un legado. Significa pasar de ser un tomador de precios a un creador de mercado. Una empresa influyente dirigida por mujeres es aquella que se sienta a la mesa cuando se adjudican los contratos de la cadena de suministro. Es aquella por la que compiten los bancos. Es aquella que exporta más allá de las fronteras. Es aquella que contrata a otras mujeres, lo que genera un efecto multiplicador de prosperidad.

Significa convertirse en una Marie Sharp, alguien que comenzó su negocio en su cocina y que ahora es sinónimo de Belice. Se ha convertido en el «Sabor de Belice». Nos recuerda que una de las principales razones por las que inició su negocio fue ayudar a las mujeres del valle de Pomona. Y eso es exactamente lo que sigue haciendo hoy en día.

El papel de la Oficina del primer ministro y del Gobierno no es el de un benefactor, sino el de un arquitecto.

Centrémonos en cuatro pilares clave para hacer realidad esta mejora. En primer lugar, el pilar de la visibilidad, ya que no podemos gestionar lo que no medimos. Estamos aprovechando la tecnología para cartografiar el sector informal. Estamos simplificando el registro de empresas, reduciendo la burocracia y creando ventanillas únicas donde una mujer puede formalizar su negocio en cuestión de horas, no de meses. Estamos pasando de lo «informal» a lo «registrado», porque el registro es el primer paso hacia la influencia. Dados los problemas de registro a los que se enfrentan las micro, pequeñas y medianas empresas (MIPYMES), la Oficina del primer ministro y el Ministerio de Inversión pusieron en marcha en 2025 un programa de amnistía fiscal con incentivos para las empresas que atrajo solicitudes de más de 900 microempresas y pequeñas empresas. Este programa nos permitió identificar varios problemas que afectan a las MIPYMES, especialmente a las microempresas y a las inversiones en empresas emergentes. Puso de manifiesto las barreras críticas que obstaculizan la formalización, el crecimiento y el desarrollo de las microempresas, y señaló claramente la necesidad de una mayor intervención gubernamental para garantizar que las MIPYMES operen dentro del marco formal de la economía beliceña. El Gobierno está redactando actualmente una «Ley de Incentivos y Flexibilización Regulatoria para las Microempresas». La intención de esta nueva legislación es proporcionar incentivos y procedimientos normativos simplificados para las microempresas; reducir las cargas administrativas en virtud de la Ley del Servicio Tributario de Belice, la Ley de Sociedades de Belice, la Ley de Licencias Comerciales y otras leyes pertinentes; y promover la formalización, el crecimiento y el acceso a los servicios gubernamentales.

El siguiente pilar es el del capital. El paso de las MIPYMES «de la supervivencia a la expansión» implica financiación para la supervivencia, microcréditos y financiación para la expansión (capital de crecimiento). El Gobierno de Belice, con la ayuda del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, está obteniendo capital de riesgo para las MIPYMES. Se informa que aproximadamente el 50 % de estas MIPYMES son propiedad de mujeres. Estamos creando instrumentos de financiación combinada y planes de garantía de crédito que consideran su flujo de caja, no solo sus garantías. Porque entendemos que una mujer que ha gestionado el presupuesto familiar con muy pocos recursos y ha mantenido a flote un negocio durante una crisis no es de alto riesgo; es de alta rentabilidad.

El tercer pilar, el del acceso al mercado, viene de la mano del Ministerio de Aviación Civil, que no se limita a los aviones y los aeropuertos; se trata de la conectividad. Se trata de logística. Se trata de abrir nuestra nación al mundo. El Gobierno está trabajando activamente para integrar las empresas propiedad de mujeres en las cadenas de suministro de nuestros aeropuertos, del sector hotelero y de los corredores de exportación. Ya sea para enviar sus productos perecederos en el primer vuelo disponible o para abastecer las salas VIP internacionales, estamos construyendo las vías de acceso.

El cuarto es el pilar de la capacidad, influido por las exigencias del siglo XXI en materia de fluidez digital. Estamos poniendo en marcha programas para garantizar que las empresas propiedad de mujeres puedan desenvolverse en el comercio electrónico, en los pagos digitales y en los sistemas de gestión financiera. Las estamos transformando de empresas que operan con efectivo en mano a empresas basadas en datos capaces de atraer inversiones serias.

A todas las mujeres: vuestra informalidad no es una debilidad; es una incubadora. Habéis sobrevivido. Ahora es el momento de prosperar. Dad un paso adelante. Formalizaos. Exigí un puesto. Buscad asociaciones. Vuestro tiempo en las sombras ha terminado.

A los inversores y las empresas: mirad más allá del balance. Fijaos en la determinación. Fijaos en el conocimiento del mercado. Fijaos en la lealtad de la base de clientes que las mujeres controlan. Invertir en las mujeres no es caridad; es la estrategia de inversión más rentable que existe.

De cara a 2026 y más allá, la historia nacional no se escribirá solo en los rascacielos que construyamos, sino también en las pequeñas empresas que hagamos crecer. Una nación que eleve a sus mujeres de los puestos informales de las tiendas a las influyentes salas de juntas construye una economía inquebrantable. Trabajemos juntos para garantizar que toda mujer con un sueño y un producto tenga las alas —y la pista de despegue— para volar.

PM Briceño Speaks to UB Students

Leadership, Economics, and National Development

"you will be the people who will drive progress in Belize in the near future"

March 19, 2026 - Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño stepped into a packed lecture hall at the University of Belize, delivering a wide-ranging address to business and economics students that blended national policy with a call for youth-driven development.

Speaking just days ahead of the national budget debate, PM Briceño framed his presentation as both a report on Belize's economic standing and an invitation for students to actively shape the country's future. "*I sincerely believe you will be the people who will drive progress in Belize in the near future,*" he told the audience, while also expressing gratitude to the university community for its contributions to budget preparations.

The Prime Minister acknowledged the challenges facing small economies in a rapidly shifting global environment, noting that "turbulence" disproportionately affects countries like Belize. Despite this, he argued that the nation's economic performance remains steady and resilient. According to the PM Briceño, Belize recorded 1.9 percent economic growth last year, with projections of 2.3 percent this year, alongside what he described as a historic low unemployment rate of 2 percent.

He highlighted several key indicators underpinning this stability, including a fixed exchange rate of two Belize dollars to one US dollar, over $1.1 billion in Central Bank reserves, and significant liquidity within the commercial banking sector. Public debt, he added, has been cut in half as a percentage of GDP since 2020, while private sector credit continues to expand.

"These are not signs of perfection," Prime Minister Briceño said, "but they show we are doing well." He emphasized that these outcomes align with the government's Plan Belize 2.0 agenda, which prioritizes fiscal discipline, economic expansion, and social investment.

A major portion of his address focused on government spending, particularly wages and pensions for an estimated 15,000 public officers, teachers, and security personnel. Prime Minister Briceño noted that 58 cents of every dollar of recurrent expenditure goes toward salaries and pensions, underscoring the limited fiscal space available for additional programs.

The Prime Minister pointed to education as a central pillar of national development. He outlined millions of dollars in planned investments, including funding for school feeding programs, internet connectivity, and scholarships. Notably, he announced that, in the upcoming fiscal year, all students enrolled in government secondary schools will attend free of cost, with more than 60 percent of all secondary school students nationwide expected to benefit.

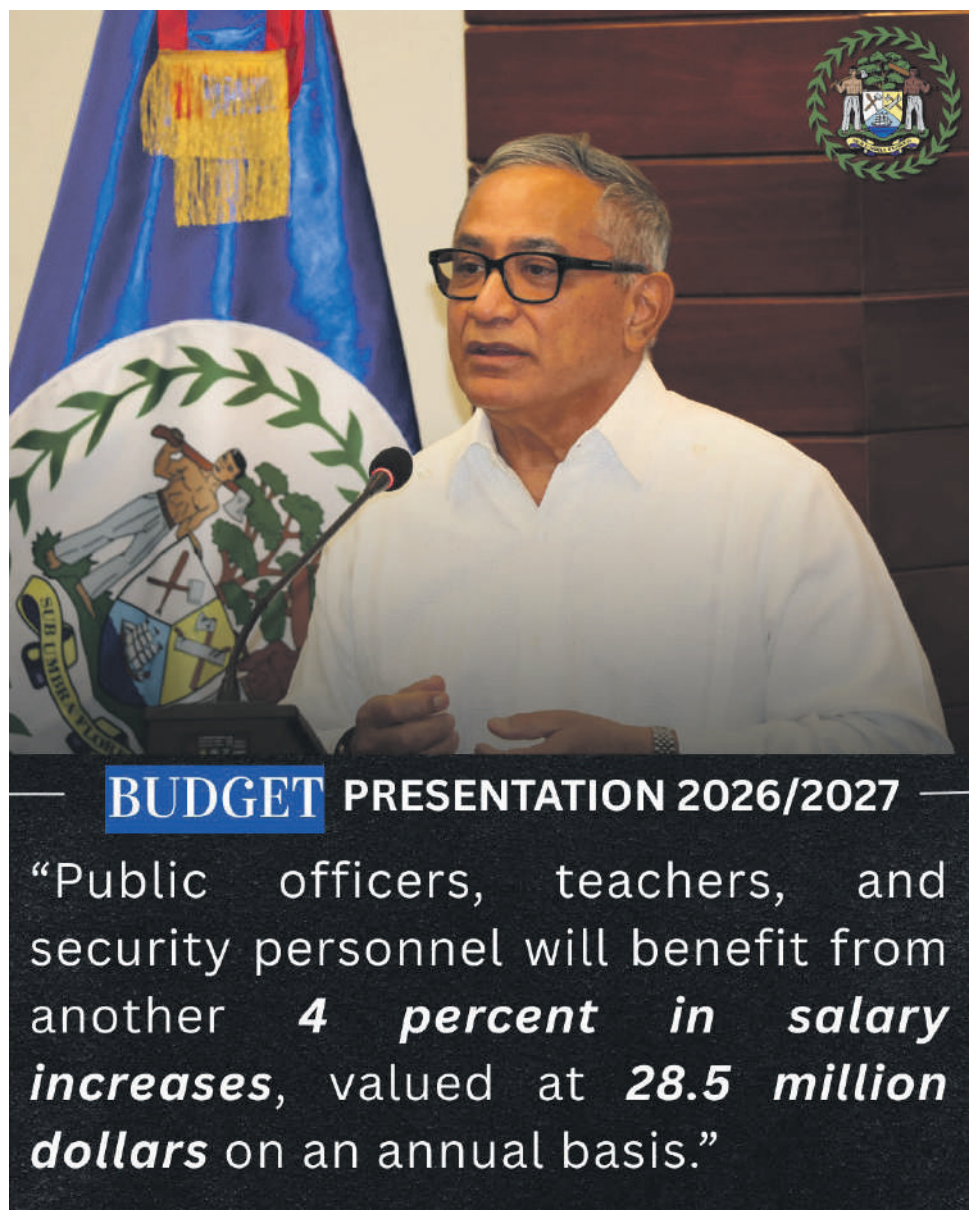
The Education Upliftment Project, he added, will expand significantly, reaching over 14,000 students across 27 secondary schools—an increase of more than 1,000 percent in less than four years.

Prime Minister Briceño stressed that such initiatives are part of a broader strategy to stimulate long-term growth through human capital development. "*The best social program we can have… is to get our people back to work,*" he said, reiterating his administration's support for private sector-led growth complemented by government investment.

He also highlighted rising investor confidence, citing approximately $736 million in foreign direct investment inflows between 2024 and 2025, compared to $231 million in outflows. This, he argued, reflects trust in Belize's financial system, governance, and economic direction.

Following the address, Prime Minister Briceño opened the floor to questions, engaging students and faculty on a range of topical issues, including fuel prices, regional relations with Cuba, and the controversial bid by Belize Telemedia Limited to acquire Speednet.

Closing his session, the Prime Minister encouraged continued dialogue and participation from young Belizeans. "*Our goal*," he said, *"is to build an economy that benefits all, not just today, but for generations to come."*



PM Briceño Inspires Toledo in Visit

Empowering the Next Generation and Our Local Farmers

Following a productive visit to Monkey River, Hon. Oscar Requena and CEO Valentino Shal joined Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño and Hon. Dr. Osmond Martinez to share inspiring moments with students at Our Lady of Bella Vista

R.C. and San Isidro Government Schools. The day culminated in Trio Village with the inauguration of a newly paved road—a long-awaited project that provides reliable access to the village's productive agricultural lands. In Trio, the PM and team joined the farming community to inaugurate a newly paved road. What used to be an hours-long journey across difficult terrain is now a quick 10-minute trip to market, giving local farmers the efficiency needed to grow the local economy. By better connecting farmers to the market, this new infrastructure directly supports the livelihoods of Trio's hardworking families and ensures a smoother path for the community's continued economic growth. (Min. Rural Transformation, Community Dev, Labour and Local Gov)

Prime Minister Inspires Bella Vista

It was a proud and inspiring moment for the community of Toledo East as Prime Minister John Briceño visited Our Lady of Bella Vista Primary School. His presence along with Hon. Dr. Osmond Martinez brought encouragement to students and reminded us of the importance

of leadership that listens and cares.

We are grateful for the opportunity he took to meet and greet community members and inspire our young minds. Special thanks go to the principal, dedicated staff, parents, and students for their warm and heartfelt welcome. Prime Minister Briceño continues to demonstrate visionary and compassionate leadership for rural communities.

Together, we remain committed to improving the lives of our people—one project at a time.

PM Inspects Monkey River Restoration Works

Area Representative Osmond Martinez: "*Our first stop was in beautiful Monkey River. A village that is now being transformed by the efforts we have undertaken to restore the beach and combat erosion. This community now has a renewed hope, confidence and excitement to once again become a thriving community. We are grateful for the support and vision of the Prime Minister to ensure that every project we do has an impact on the most vulnerable population.*"

The project, managed with a budget of over BZ $300,000, uses nature-based solutions to reclaim the shoreline and protect homes and community landmarks from the devastating effects of erosion.

REQUEST FOR BID (GOODS)

WORLD BANK GROUP

ACQUISITION OF GOODS: FIELD GEAR AND PPE EQUIPMENT

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-MFEDI - CEU-529614-GO-RFQ
Deadline: **April 8, 2026; 10:00 a.m. local time (Extension)**

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received loan financing from the World Bank for the Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project, being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds for the purchase of **Field Gear and PPE Equipment** (hereinafter called "Goods").

No.	Goods	Quantity
Lot 1	WQM Field Equipment	Available in the bidding document
Lot 2	WQM Field Equipment (misc.)	Available in the bidding document
Lot 3	Lab Equipment	Available in the bidding document
Lot 4	Reagents & Standards	Available in the bidding document

Bidders may submit a bid for **One Lot or for All Lots**. Each bid must include every item within the selected lot to be considered responsive.

The Ministry of Finance invites bidders to access the complete bidding document at https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit bids in accordance with the instructions provided in the bidding document.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

IDB

Extension Officer - Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries (MAFSNGI)

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Sustainable and Inclusive Belize
Process ID: BL-L1041 – P00064
Duration: Eighteen (18) months
Duty Station: Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries (MAFSNGI), Central Farm, Cayo, Belize (In Office)
Deadline: **April 8, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Project "Sustainable and Inclusive Belize".

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage contractual services of an "**Extension Officer".** This position will support the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries (MAFSNGI).

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at **https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-sib-extension-officer-ministry-of-agriculture-food-security-and-new-growth-industries-individual-consultant-bl-l1041-p00064-mof-sib-2026/** or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: VEHICLES

Belize City, Belize District; San Ignacio, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following vehicles. **Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these vehicles are sold.**

VEHICLES

2003 Mazda Tribute

2004 Caterpillar Backhoe

2013 Black Chevy Equinox

2010 Club Car Gulf Cart

2013 Silver Chevy Equinox

2013 Black Chevy Equinox

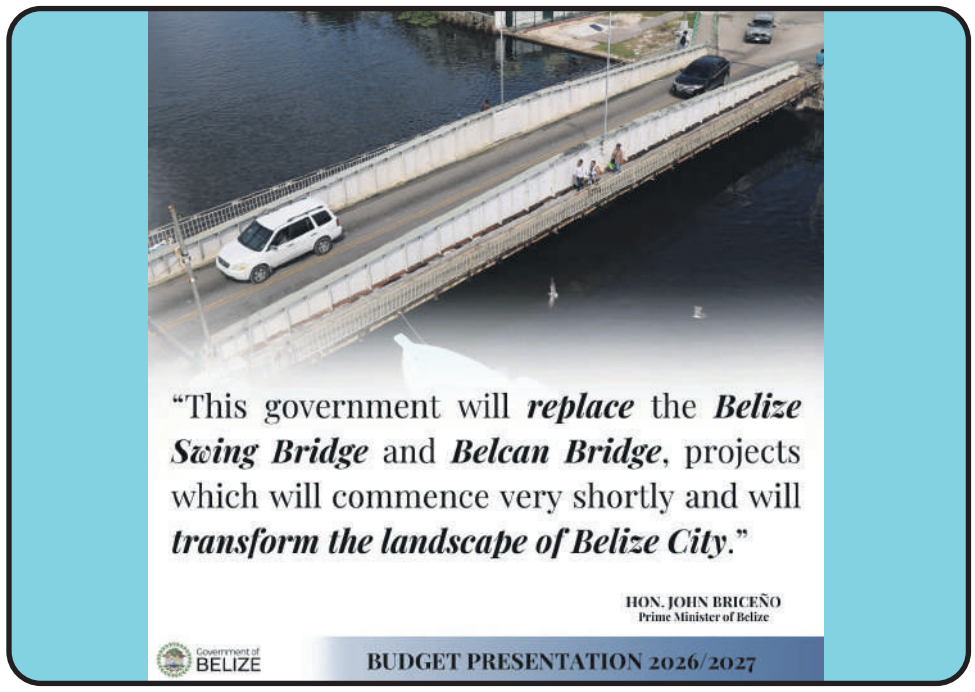
"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE" TERMS: STRICTLYCASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: **belizepropertyauctions.com**

E-mail: **kevinacas@yahoo.com**

Facebook: **Belize Auctions**



NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 5/2026

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue
will be $83,200,000.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository (CSD) of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of $200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Tuesday, 7 April 2026 and will be redeemed on Tuesday. 7 July 2026.

Each tender must be for $200 or a multiple of $200. Bid yields must be submitted to five decimal places.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Thursday, 2 April 2026.

The auction in the CSD will be opened from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Tuesday, 7 April 2026.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement
System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

13 March 2026

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

IDB

PROJECT COORDINATOR – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Institution: Ministry of Finance

Country: Belize

Project: Strengthening Public Expenditure Management Program

Process ID: BL-L1038-P00111

Duration: One (1) year

Duty Station: Ministry of the Public Service, Training and Development Unit, Belmopan, Belize (In Office)

Deadline: **April 8, 2026; 9:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)** **(EXTENSION)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of the **"**Strengthening Public Expenditure Management (SPEM) Program" being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage the contractual services of a **"Project Coordinator"** who will support the Ministry of the Public Service for Component 1.4 of the Project.

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-project-coordinator-under-strengthening-public-expenditure-management-spem-program-individual-consultant-bl-l1038-p00111-mof-2026/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: "Project Coordinator - SPEM- [Applicant's Name]

University of Belize Lecture PM John Briceño To BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS STUDENTS March 19, 2025

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for the opportunity to have this conversation with you all. It is truly a special opportunity for me to speak to you the students of economic and business. I sincerely believe you will be the people who will drive progress in Belize in the near future. Our discussion comes at an opportune time, literally days before the budget debate and the passing of the appropriations bills for this financial year. Before proceeding let me also express on behalf of my government our gratitude to those of the UB team for their contribution to our budget preparations.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we live in an age of instant communications, your generation more than any other understand that social media platforms provide constant news from every corner of the globe. The flood of news, the reels and posts, often, indicate the turbulence of our age. And turbulence by its very nature has a disproportionate impact on small, open economies such as ours. In this period of widespread upheaval, the truth is that we here in Belize are doing a lot better than some would admit. For sure, our stewardship of government has been steadfast, resilient and future-focused. Why do I say this?

Because the pillars of sustained prosperity include diversified growth, robust employment, a strong currency, ample credit and a government that invests in the welfare of its people through education, healthcare, infrastructure and security. On each of these scores, Belize is performing as good as or better than countries in our region and of similar size. Here is a snapshot of how we are doing.

Last year, our economy grew by 1.9 percent. This year, the projection is 2.3 percent growth. The latest employment report by the Statistical Institute of Belize shows that a historic low of 2.0 percent. That means that 98 of every 100 persons who was looking for work, found work. The Belize dollar remains firmly fixed to the US dollar at 2 to 1. We have 1.1 billion dollars in Central Bank reserves and 737.5 million dollars in commercial bank external assets.

The public debt, what government owes, as a percentage of GDP, has been cut in half since 2020. Credit outstanding from the commercial banks to the private sector stood at 2.8 billion dollars reflecting growth in the 2025 of 7.6 percent. And the commercial banks currently hold 720.2 million dollars in excess liquidity, available to the private sector to grow the economy and raise employment even higher. So we are doing well, not great but well.

All this is fundamental to my government's Plan Belize 2.0 Agenda, and allows us to do things like: Provide Salary adjustment for public officers, teachers and our uniformed services.

Government's spending on salaries for its estimated 15,000 workforce – all teachers and public officers – was 598 million dollars, with an additional 123 million dollars spent on pensions and ex-gratia payments.

Put differently, 58 cents of every dollar of government recurring spending goes to salaries and pensions. Put another way, 45 cents out of every dollar of tax collected are spent on just these two categories. This builds a strong and meaningful partnership with all stake holders, including the Public Service and the Private Sector to grow the economy and manage government's finances in an open and transparent manner. To put it more succinctly, my administration remains committed to spending limitations, revenue enhancements, proper debt management, and economic expansion.

We believe that growing the economy is the only road to getting out of the grave socio-economic crisis we inherited when we took office in 2020. I remain convinced that the best social program we can have in these circumstances is to get our people back to work. For us growing our economy, is best when we pursue private sector-led growth complemented by government resources. The economic plan laid out in planBelize focuses heavily on the need to not only enable private sector development, but in engendering an entrepreneurial spirit in our people, especially you, our young people. We will never abandon this ideal and we will keep investing as much as we can in the development of young Belizeans. For this reason, we continue to spend million on Education, and this year, I hope, you will all be excited by the Capital program we have set out for education including the $2.6 million for the Healthy Start Feeding Program, $2.2 million for internet to schools, $13.0 million for Education Grants. I do believe 13 million dollars in funds for scholarships is more than any past government had given to help our students pursue secondary and tertiary education.

This 2026/2027 budget will strategically invest in our education system to meet the needs of a growing student population, accelerate system-wide transformation, and protect the well-being of our teachers, ensuring tangible results for students, educators, and the nation. I hope you listen to our Education Minister's presentation on Monday when he lays out in greater detail our plan for education, but let me tell you some of the initiatives we are promoting in this budget. In the 2026/2027 fiscal period, the Education Upliftment Project will expand to 27 secondary schools, reaching over 14,000 students. These numbers indicate an increase of more than 13,000 beneficiaries, representing growth of over 1000 percent in less than four years. In 2026/2027, 100 percent of students enrolled in government secondary schools nationwide will attend school for free. Over 60 percent of all secondary school students in Belize will benefit from free education, providing significant financial relief to more than 8,500 families.

I hope we will be able come back next year to inform you that we were about to assist even more families. Listen, we all know this: there is never enough money to fund every program, so tough choices need to be made at Budget time. Here is the sobering reality, firstly, Government must meet its payroll and pension obligations to the 15,000 public officers, teachers and security personnel. These professionals at all levels fulfill government's mandate to manage the affairs of the state and to provide service to all 420 thousand citizens. This single cost of wages and pensions represent 44 cents of every dollar collected by the State. Secondly are operational costs, including utilities and supplies which take up another 15 cents of every dollar. What remains must be allocated judiciously to supporting other core obligations such as subsidies for tertiary education through the University of Belize and tertiary healthcare through the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital. Thirdly, 11 cents of every public dollar directed to repay interest on the public debt. After all that, not much is left.

We must put a limit on how much we borrow and that limit is tied to our capacity to repay. Our policy is for this generation, I mean me and people my age, to fund our own welfare not to borrow from you, our children. Our goal is for your and future generations to benefit from our foresight and sacrifice not to impoverish you and our grandchildren for our benefit. The fact is that in our mixed economy, Government's role is augmented, in some instances, superseded by the private sector and non-profit actors. When Government leads by example, when we manage public finances prudently, it inspires confidence, which in turn can multiply development through private investments. Money chooses its host country and that choice is a clear indication of the so-called investment climate.

At this time in Belize, the increase flow of foreign direct investment shows the level of confidence in our country and economy. In the last two years alone, 2024 and 2025, Belize has benefited from approximately 736 million dollars of capital inflows while outflows, not counting the acquisition of the hydro facilities, totaled just 231 million dollars. Net investments flow therefore have been 505 million dollars or over half a billion dollars in just the last two years. This unprecedented investment flow is an unmistakable signal that our policies have inspired trust, trust in our laws and courts, in our financial system and currency, in the long-term sustainability of our economy and in the administration of the state by this government. I am exceedingly confident that these successes will grow exponentially.

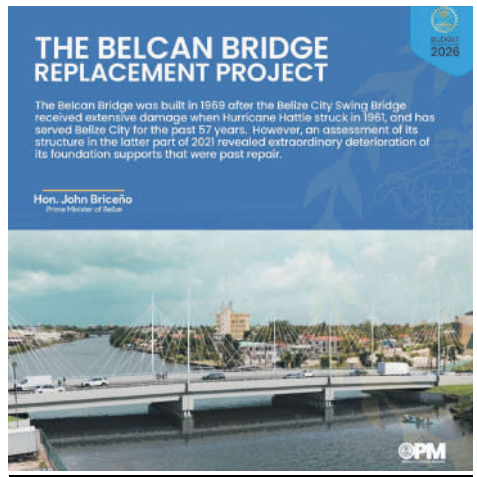
Last Tuesday, I laid out our agenda which is guided by our commitment to being future focused. It affirms my administration's commitment to targets that will guide revenue collection, spending, investment and public borrowing. This government believes in the prerequisite to systematically address the underlying vulnerabilities and inequalities in the move towards sustainable and equitable development. We believe everyone should prosper and we always remain optimistic about the future. Our economic recovery efforts continue to be critical steps towards reducing vulnerability and building resilience, so that we can see progress, because we want this budget to ensure it brings prosperity that benefits all Belizeans.

Once again thanks for the opportunity to have this conversation with you. Rest assured my government will always welcome your participation in this exercise. And now I am happy to answer as many of your questions as time will allow.

Senator Dennison Investigated by Financial Intelligence Unit

Belize's Channel Five Reported on March 18 that "Union Senator Glenfield Dennison is under mounting pressure tonight after a disputed invoice linked to talks between the Belize Communications Workers Union and BTL drew the attention of several authorities. The primary concern is that GST may have been charged by a company that wasn't registered to collect it. But the issue has now grown. News Five has confirmed that the FIU has notified BTL that Dennison Consulting Limited is not registered as a Designated Non-Financial Business and Profession, something required for attorneys operating in Belize. That raises the stakes and signals a possible wider financial probe. The Belize Tax Service says it hasn't received a formal complaint yet, but officials warn that charging GST without proper registration is a serious offense that can carry fines, administrative penalties, or even jail time. They add that once red flags appear, multiple agencies, including the FIU, can get involved. Director General Michelle Longsworth says the department takes these breaches seriously and enforcement will follow if violations are confirmed."

It is highly unusual for us to quote another news source but in this politically charged case especially of someone that has not been elected is grave and we only seek the truth for the public. Senator Dennison had put himself out to side with anything that is anti-government and by extension anti-PUP. The hypocrisy of his stance glares out. He is obviously not as squeaky clean as he portrays in the Senate for the unions and in public in front of microphones. What is fair will eventually come to light.



LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Bernard Diego is applying for a Publican Special Liquor License to be operated at "Pan D Alberts" located at # 27 Albert Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Ministry of
Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs

WHAT WE DO WEDNESDAY

NEXT WEEK: PARENTING PROGRAM

Strong families don't happen by chance — they are built with support, guidance, and the right tools.

Next week on What We Do Wednesday, the Department of Human Services highlights its Parenting Program under the Community and Parent Empowerment Program (COMPAR).

This structured 8-week programme is designed to support parents and caregivers by providing practical knowledge and skills in:

✔ Positive discipline
✔ Child and adolescent development
✔ Family communication
✔ Managing stress and conflict
✔ Building healthier home environments

The programme serves parents of children from birth to eighteen years and includes both court-referred participants and community-based groups.

Because when parents are supported, children are protected.

Facebook & Instagram:

Strengthening Belize's Emergency Response

U.S. Government Donates Fire Fighting Equipment

"enhance the operational readiness of firefighters and improve their ability to respond effectively"

March 11 — On Wednesday, the United States Southern Command Humanitarian Assistance Program donated nearly BZ$3 million in fire equipment to the Belize National Fire Service (NFS), toward strengthening Belize's emergency response capacity.

The official handing over ceremony brought together representatives from the Government of Belize, U.S. Embassy Belize, and the Belize National Fire Service. The donated equipment includes handheld radios, oxygen tanks, Hurst rescue tools, cutting saws, portable pumps, and full firefighting gear. These resources will enhance the operational readiness of firefighters and improve their ability to respond effectively to emergencies, protect lives, and safeguard property across Belize.

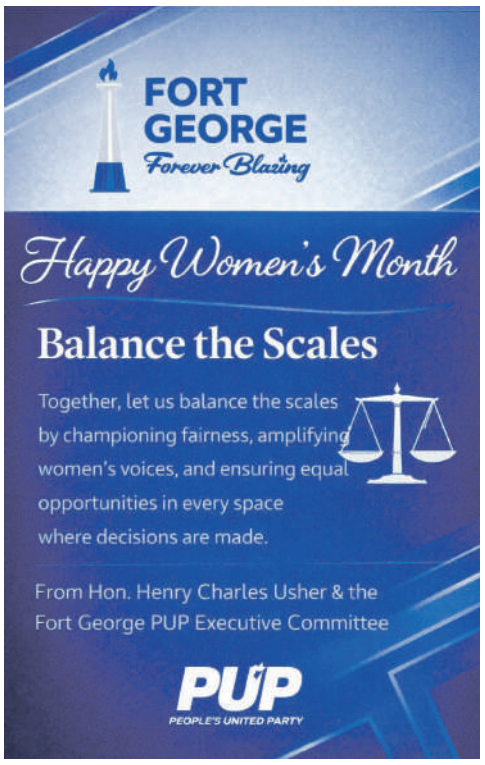
In her remarks, U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires, Katharine Beamer, underscored, "*This donation is a testament to the enduring friendship between the United States and Belize. It reflects our shared dedication to protecting lives, strengthening communities, and ensuring that those who serve on the frontlines have the resources they need to succeed.*"

Minister of the Public Service and Disaster Risk Management, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, welcomed the donation and highlighted its importance for the continued strengthening of the Fire Service and thanked the U.S. Embassy for its continued support to the NFS in terms of infrastructure, equipment, and training. He commented, "*This assistance is critical in ensuring that our firefighters have the facilities, tools, and resources needed to serve communities effectively across the country. In effect, it represents a significant investment in the safety and well-being of the Belizean people.*"

This year is a milestone year for both countries as the United States is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its independence and Belize achieves 45 years of nationhood.

Through this type of support, both countries can continue to build upon their friendship and shared goals. These new resources will support the Belize National Fire Service in carrying out its critical role as first responders, providing firefighters with the tools and protective equipment to safely serve and protect communities throughout the country. (joint release)

With progress comes the need to protect our Belizean lives and assets. The planBelize government met a fire department whose assets were being sold out via firesales without a plan to replace them. The United States has acknowledged this need and helped to address it via this donation which is not the first. The hope is that the type of effort to collaborate by us Belize and by them the USA continues.



Unity Presbyterian Pours their Heart Out

Welcomes Minsters Garcia-Ramirez & Daly

Gender Affairs, funding was provided to help cover school fees for these students.

The visit included a special school assembly where students, teachers, and the wider school community gathered to express their gratitude for this meaningful support.

This initiative highlights the importance of investing in young people and ensuring access to education.

Minister Daly reaffirmed his commitment to making education more accessible and affordable for families in the Collet constituency. (post)

March 13, 2026 - Hon. Devin Daly joined Minister Thea Garcia Ramirez in the Collet community to support the education of 100 students from Unity Presbyterian Primary School.

Through the assistance of the Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and

Celebrating Early Childhood Stimulation Hon. Thea Visit to Mary Hill RC School

Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez: "My heart was truly full today as I visited the wonderful children and dedicated preschool teachers and principal at Mary Hill RC School in celebration of Early Childhood Stimulation Month.

Seeing the laughter, curiosity, and bright smiles of these little ones was a beautiful reminder that the earliest years of a child's life are the most important. Nearly 90% of brain development happens before the age of five, which means the love, care, learning, and stimulation they receive today will shape the adults they become tomorrow.

In Belize, only about half of our children have access to early childhood education, and in the Corozal District participation among children ages 3–4 is about 33%. This shows us how important it is to continue investing in our preschools, teachers, and parents so that every child can have the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

I want to thank the incredible teachers and caregivers at Mary Hill Preschool who pour their hearts into nurturing these young minds every single day. The work you do is building the future of our community.

Our children are our hope, our pride, and our greatest investment."

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Senior Transparency Officer

Position	Senior Transparency Officer
Project	"Strengthening national capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework in Belize" (also referred to as the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project
Duty Station	National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
Duration	36 months
Location	Belmopan, Belize
Reports to	Chief Technical Advisor
Accountable to	Project Director/Chief Climate Change Officer

A. Background

Belize is a signatory to key international climate change frameworks, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to global climate action. The Government of Belize ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994 and subsequently acceded to the Paris Agreement in 2016.

Under the Paris Agreement, Belize is obligated to participate in the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), a central mechanism designed to provide robust, transparent, and comparable information on greenhouse gas emissions, progress on mitigation and adaptation efforts, and support provided or received. The ETF also establishes procedures for international technical expert review and is integral to the global stocktake process that assesses collective progress towards the Agreement's long-term goals.

Belize has progressively strengthened its national climate reporting and transparency capacities. The country has submitted key climate reports to the UNFCCC, including its First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) and national greenhouse gas inventories in line with ETF requirements. Despite this progress, Belize's existing systems and capacities require further consolidation to consistently meet ETF requirements and ensure high-quality, timely, and systematic reporting. To address these gaps, Belize is implementing its first CBIT project— Strengthening National Capacity for Implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework. This initiative aims to strengthen the national transparency system through the development of an integrated Transparency Management System, enhanced data modules (e.g., GHG emissions, adaptation, NDC tracking), and improved institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement.

Therefore, the National Climate Change Office is seeking a Senior Transparency Officer who will play a pivotal role in supporting Belize's transition toward a fully operational and sustainable national transparency framework, ensuring compliance with the ETF under the Paris Agreement and enabling the Government of Belize to generate high-quality, reliable climate information for both national policy-making and international reporting.

B. Scope of work

The Senior Transparency Officer will coordinate the strategic development and institutionalization of Belize's transparency system whilst providing research, technical expertise and guidance for products to be developed under the CBIT project, as well as technical expertise and strategic guidance on monitoring, reporting, and verifying climate change-related measures for both policies and projects throughout the CBIT project.

C. Tasks description

i. Oversight of CBIT technical work being carried out under consultancies in alignment with the TOR.
ii. Develop an ETF compliance document that lists the requirements and timings, organizations responsible for outputs, datasets and data provider tools and expertise needed as per the ETF under the Paris Agreement.
iii. Oversee design, enhancement, and sustainability of the Transparency Management System
iv. Ensure integration of mitigation, adaptation, NDC tracking, and climate finance modules.
v. Provide high-level technical review and validation of reporting outputs while ensuring consistency, comparability, and completeness.
vi. Lead high-level engagement with ministries, statutory bodies, and key stakeholders.
vii. Guide capacity-building initiatives for sectoral data providers.
viii. Provide mentorship and technical direction to ensure operational efficiency of the outputs to be produced under consultancies
ix. Coordinate meetings with stakeholders in each of the sectors for the discussion, analysis and elaboration of the outputs of the CBIT project
x. Provide technical assistance to all stakeholders involved in the Transparency
xi. Collaborate with local entities involved in climate change information management to develop the outputs of the project.
xii. Support the preparation and data gathering of all CBIT annual/year-end project revisions and CBIT project reports
xiii. Provide support for the development, administration, management and improvement of Belize's Transparency Management System
xiv. Assist in the preparation of UNFCCC reporting preparation through CBIT deliverables as it relates to transparency and MRV sections/requirements
xv. Facilitate the mainstreaming of transparency and MRV through use of the climate change policy framework and NDCs into key sectoral policies and strategies
xvi. Provide technical support to the Belize National Climate Change Committee and Working Groups when necessary
xvii. Undertake any other tasks as may be reasonably assigned by the Project Director and the Chief Technical Advisor in support of the NCCO and CBIT implementation.

D. Institutional arrangements

The Senior Transparency Officer will work under the direct supervision of the Chief Technical Advisor of the CBIT project and other technical counterparts who will have information related to the purpose of the position. The Chief Climate Change Officer/Project Director will supervise the day-to-day supervision and monitoring of the consultancy to ensure that the activities are achieved.

E. Duty Station

The position will be based within the National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management.

F. Qualification and Experience

Academic Qualifications

i. Bachelor's degree in environmental science, environmental management/studies, social sciences, public policy, economics, statistics/ data science or a related field is required.
ii. Training/ certification in results based management, climate finance tracking, MRV Systems or data QA/QC systems is an asset.

Experience

i. Minimum of 5 years' professional working experience in environmental or climate change governance, climate data systems, MRV systems, environmental monitoring and evaluation
ii. Experience working with data platforms, databases or structured reporting tools to manage climate of development related datasets across multiple institutions.
iii. Experience working with government and other sector agency stakeholders facilitating institutional coordination.
iv. Experience leading or coordinating Muli stakeholder technical processes like working groups, technical/ oversight committees or stakeholder consultations, including facilitating meetings and follow-through to deliver outputs.
v. Experience developing or applying MRV methodologies, QA/QC procedures and standardized documentation would be an asset.
vi. Experience supervising consultants or technical teams to ensure deliverables are met and ensuring quality and timeliness, etc. would be an asset

G. Skills and Knowledge

I. Excellent written and verbal English skills
II. Interpersonal and teamwork skills to work collaboratively
III. Sound knowledge of climate change concepts, including mitigation, adaptation and crosscutting issues
IV. Familiarity with Belize's national climate change frameworks including its NDCs
V. Familiarity with adaptation M&E frameworks.
VI. Awareness of international climate processes and frameworks under the UNFCCC would be an asset
VII. Planning, organizing, and analytical skills.
VIII. Result-oriented, flexible, and problem-solving skills.
IX. Knowledge of the GHG inventory, QA/QC, IPCC guidelines

H. Abilities and Competencies

i. Strategic thinking
ii. Leadership and supervision
iii. High-level stakeholder engagement
iv. Ability to work under tight reporting timelines
v. Attention to detail and quality assurance

I. Application Process

Qualified and interested persons are to submit:

a) A signed cover letter outlining suitability for the position;
b) A detailed Curriculum Vitae or Resume with full details of experience, achievements, qualifications, and (include copies of degrees and certifications),
c) Two (2) recent professional reference letters with contact details

Applications should be identified as – "Application for Senior Transparency Officer – *Your name*" in the subject matter of the email. All Applications must be submitted in one PDF file via email to:

Chief Climate Change Officer
National Climate Change Office
Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, Cayo District
Email: mrvofficer.cc@environment.gov.bz

Deadline: Applications must be received no later than **27 March 2026 at 4:30pm.** Late submissions will not be considered.

The successful applicant will receive written notification of the contract award. Upon selection, the successful applicant must promptly enter into an appropriate contract based on the request for expressions of interest, incorporating any additional provisions as required.

The Ministry reserves the right to cancel this procurement process, at any time before the award of the contract, without incurring any liability.

TRULY INSPIRING

Special Envoy Visits Stella Maris

Thank you Mrs. Rossana Briceño for always supporting and uplifting women in leadership. Your visit to Stella Maris School was truly inspiring and a reminder of the importance of empowering women who are working every day to create change in our communities.

Your continued advocacy for families, children, and women encourages many of us to keep pushing forward with purpose and compassion. Seeing leaders like you take the time to connect with our school and community means so much.

Thank you for your commitment, your leadership, and for being a strong voice for women across Belize. Together, we continue building a future where women lead, inspire, and make lasting impact. (School post)

Visiting at Eglah's Training Center for Women & Families

March 17 – "I had the pleasure of visiting Eglah's Training Center for Women & Families in Belize City, where I had an opportunity to address the students, administrators, and invited guests including board members.

Eglah continues to play an important role in the community by providing literacy, computer, and life-skills training to out of school youths, primary and secondary school students, and adults who are eager to learn and grow.

Eglah is the perfect example of "it's never too late to learn" and placing students in the "least restrictive environment". I spoke about the importance of family literacy and how learning becomes even more meaningful when families read, grow, and explore the world together. When we support one another in education, we strengthen not only families, but also communities.

It was truly inspiring to see dedication of the educators and students who continue to show that it is never too late to learn and move forward!" – Special Envoy Rossana Briceño

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)
WORKS - (DESIGN AND BUILD)

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF SAN PEDRO TOWN STREET IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize, Central America
Project: Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development Program
Process ID: BL-L1046-P00028
Deadline: **April 24, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development Program.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the Program's proceeds to procure the works for the "**Design and Construction of San Pedro Town Street Improvement Works".**

The Ministry of Finance invites interested companies to access the full version of this RFB online at https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit their Bid in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

WORK CONTINUES IN 2026

PM John Briceño

Fulfilling Visit to Toledo

In Monkey River inspecting critical restoration

Ensuring Continued work of Philip Goldson Highway

Special Envoy Rossana Briceño

Handing over POP hygiene packages & Car wash Program support

Child Stimulation Activities

Orange Walk TC

Hon. Thea Garcia in Corozal Bay

Belize City Council, All over

Toledo

Benque TC

Hon. Daly & Hon. Thea in Collet

Belmopan

Punta Gorda Town Council

Supporting Youth & Sports

"BALANCE THE SCALES"

OW Town Council w/ UWG President

Bike Ride in Orange Walk

Corozal North UWG & Exec

Cleanup in Altamira

OPM's BELTRAIDE

Empower HER Training

Min. Kareem Musa (Caribbean Shores), Immigration, Labour & Governance

Immigration Upgrade partnering w/ UNHCR & Japan

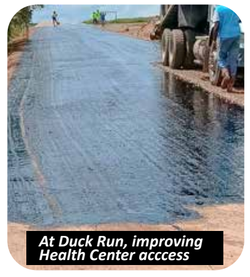
Hon. Marconi Leal, Belize Rural North

Ensuring benefits from Small Grants Program

Hon. Espat, MIDH

Sugar Roads in OW

At pit in OW


At Duck Run, improving Health Center acccess

right on track — 'Segulmos Muy Bien' — vamos bien

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

4TH WOMEN EMPOWERMENT FORUM BELIZE CHAMBER OF

By Hilly Bennett

"Let us work together to ensure that every woman with a dream and a product has the wings - and the runway - to fly." CEO Narda García.

On Wednesday, March 18, 2026, there were two ceremonial events celebrating the diverse contributions of women to Belizean society in various roles to the country's development. The National Women's Commission held an award ceremony to recognise 14 awardees for their individual contributions at the Belize Biltmore Plaza in Belize City. However, the writer will concentrate this article on the 4th Annual Women's Empowerment Forum at the Belize Civic Center, which was hosted by the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) and the Development Finance Corporation (DFC).

This year's forum was held under the theme *"From Survival to Scale: Financing Women for Growth"* and convened a collective audience, including entrepreneurs, corporate leaders, policy decision-makers, financial institutions and development partners for a robust conversation about the importance of creating an enabling environment that will allow the women to scale, compete, and to lead a charge imbued with confidence in the Belizean economy.

According to a BCCI post, the forum focused on expanding access to finance, strengthening capacity, and supporting sustainable business growth. Additionally, it created a space for key stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue to explore practical solutions that empower women entrepreneurs to move beyond resilience to scale. It also included expert-led panel discussions encompassing thematic narration on topics, such as From Informal to Influential: Elevating women-owned businesses into sustainable enterprises, Access to Finance: Exploring persistent barriers and practical financing solutions, The Silent Career Stage: Addressing menopause, health, and workplace inclusion, Psychological Safety & Harassment Prevention: Advancing respectful, equitable work environments, and Entrepreneurship & Digital Opportunity: Leveraging innovation for growth and expansion.

Ms. Narda Garcia, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Investment & Civil Aviation, the Guest Speaker for the event, drew the nexus of the most powerful, yet invisible, contributor-women as a part of the engine of the economy. Normally, economic growth is spoken of in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and mega infrastructure projects. Interestingly, the discussion centered on the journey of women *"From informal to influential - Elevating Women-Owned Businesses"*. CEO Garcia recommended that *"To elevate, we must first acknowledge where we stand. Across our region and indeed globally, women are disproportionately represented in the informal economy"*. However, *"They are survivors. They are the ones who stretch the dollar to feed a family, who juggle childcare with commerce, who keep the lights on through sheer grit."*

Kim Aikman Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BCCI remarked on how women's entrepreneurship has evolved from mere survival to advanced women-led businesses across Belize. Aikman explained that, *"Since the onset of the initiative, the forum has served as a critical platform to connect women with tools, network, and financing pathways needed to scale their businesses and strengthen their economic impact. Empowering Women is not simply a social cause-it t is an economic imperative."*

Similarly, CEO Garcia, in a call to action, told the investors and the corporations, *"I challenge you to look beyond the balance sheet. Look at grit. Look at market knowledge. Look at the loyalty of the customer base that these women command. Investing in women is not charity; it is the highest-yielding investment strategy available."* In concert with the theme, Garcia cautioned the over 190 women in attendance that, *"Your informality is not weakness; it is an incubator. You have survived. Now it is time to thrive. Step forward. Formalize. Demand a seat. Seek partnerships. Your time in the shadows is over!"*

In a stirring conclusion, Garcia submitted that, *"As we look toward 2026 and beyond, our national story will be written not just in the skyscrapers we build, but in small businesses we grow. A nation that elevates its women from the informal tent stalls to Influential boardrooms is a nation that builds an unshakeable economy."*

She concluded *"Let us work together to ensure that every woman with a dream and a product has the wings - and a runway - to fly"*.

The sponsors for the event were the Taiwan Embassy, BELTRAIDE, Finance Belize, Financial Services Commission (FSC), NVision, Courts (Belize) Ltd., Santiago Castillo Ltd., Fort George Hotel and Spa, GraceKennedy Belize Ltd., and MADISCO. Two micro, women-owned businesses received prizes for the Women's $1,000 Grant Competition: Oma Organix and My Cielo Blue. The winners were selected based on their innovation, vision, and potential scale.

NOTICE

Request for Prequalification (RFPQ)

Utility-Scale Solar PV Projects in Belize (80 MW)

IFC International Finance Corporation WORLD BANK GROUP

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL), in partnership with the Government of Belize (GoB) through the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics (MPUEL), and with advisory support from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), invites qualified private-sector developers to participate in a Request for Prequalification (RFPQ) for landmark utility-scale solar PV projects in Belize.

To deliver this initiative, the GoB has engaged the IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, acting through its Advisory Services division, as lead transaction advisor. The Project is being structured under the globally recognized Scaling Solar initiative, which promotes an open, competitive, and transparent procurement process to accelerate the deployment of privately owned utility-scale solar projects.

Procurement Process

The RFPQ represents the first stage of a competitive bidding process. Its purpose is to prequalify developers with the technical experience, financial capacity, and delivery capability required to implement large-scale solar PV projects within an accelerated timeframe. Only prequalified bidders will be invited to participate in the subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) stage.

Project Overview

Total Capacity: Up to 80 MW of grid-connected utility-scale solar PV

Sites: 3 to 4 locations across Belize

Commercial Structure: Independent Power Producer (IPP) model

Role of the Private Sector: Design, finance, construct, own, operate, and maintain the solar PV facilities

Objectives of the Project

This strategic investment is a cornerstone of Belize's energy transition and is intended to:

- Increase renewable energy generation to support Belize's target of 75% renewable electricity by 2030
- Reduce foreign exchange outflows associated with electricity imports
- Strengthen national energy security and system reliability

Access to RFPQ

The full RFQ document, including eligibility criteria, submission requirements, and timelines, is available at:

www.bel.com.bz/Tenders

Belize is open for clean energy investment. Qualified developers are encouraged to participate in this transformative project that will shape the country's sustainable energy future.

LAND ISSUE RESOLVED WITH PERSISTENCE, UNDERSTANDING, AND COMPASSION

Hon. Gilroy Usher, Port Loyola Area

"After months of trying to assist Miss Hernandez, a grassroots person in Port Loyola in obtaining a land that her family has been cleaning for almost two years, the deal was closed on Wednesday March 18th. That occurred when in exchange for other property, the lease holder, who is set, voluntarily agreed to return the property to government after seeing the tremendous work the Hernandez family had done in clearing and filling the land for a home. (post)

SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF CLIMATE WEEK 2026

The launch of Belize 5th Climate Week was a very lively and exciting event on Thursday March 12th at the Toledo Welcome Center in Punta Gorda Town. The keynote address was delivered by Hon Orlando Habet Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Solid Waste Management who outlined many benefits and challenges of climate change.

Other Speakers included Hon Ramiro Ramirez Minister of State Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Solid Waste Management, yours truly, Minister of State for Public Utilities, Energy, and Logistics who deputized for Hon. Michael Chebat Minister of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics as well as Minister Oscar Requena and Minister of State Dr. Osmond Martinez who represent Toledo West and Toledo East respectively. Also, present for the occasion were Hon Alex Balona, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, and Ms Milagro Matus CEO for Minister Orlando Habet among many other persons.

The ceremony also included videos which highlighted some of the activities for climate week 2025 as well as cultural presentation by Garifuna dancers. The attendees were also entertained with Maya music and cultural performances.

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National Gender Expert

Position	National Gender Expert
Project	"Strengthening national capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework in Belize" *(also referred to as the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project)*
Duty Station	National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
Duration	36 months
Location	Belmopan, Belize
Reports to	Chief Technical Advisor
Accountable to	Project Director/Chief Climate Change Officer

A. Background

Belize is a signatory to key international climate change frameworks, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to global climate action. The Government of Belize ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994 and subsequently acceded to the Paris Agreement in 2016.

Under the Paris Agreement, Belize participates in the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), which requires Parties to provide transparent information on greenhouse gas emissions, progress on mitigation and adaptation actions, and support provided or received. Effective implementation of the ETF not only requires strong technical systems, but also inclusive, participatory approaches that ensure equitable engagement of women and men and the integration of gender considerations into climate policies and reporting processes.

Belize has progressively strengthened its national climate reporting and transparency capacities. The country has submitted key climate reports to the UNFCCC, including its First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) and national greenhouse gas inventories in line with ETF requirements. To further enhance institutional capacity and ensure that transparency systems are inclusive and sustainable, Belize is implementing its first Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project—Strengthening National Capacity for Implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework. The project includes a Gender Action Plan (GAP) to promote gender-responsive implementation, equitable participation in capacity-building activities, and the integration of gender considerations across all components of the project.

In this context, the National Climate Change Office is seeking a National Gender Expert to ensure the effective mainstreaming of gender throughout project execution. The role will be critical in ensuring that the project contributes to equitable outcomes, strengthens inclusive participation in the national transparency system, and aligns with national and international commitments to gender-responsive climate action.

B. Scope of work

The National Gender Expert is expected to effectively mainstream gender into the project execution. The person appointed will be responsible for the deployment and monitoring of the project's Gender Action Plan and ensuring that gender is integrated throughout the implementation of the project activities.

C. Tasks description

i. Lead on the execution of the project's Gender Action Plan, implementing activities and monitoring risks related to gender

ii. Assess and develop recommendations for designing a gender-responsive transparency system

iii. Perform thorough research on the national circumstances related to gender and provide the information required to be able to capture gender inequality in Belize's climate actions as well as design elements concerning the system's outputs

iv. Liaise with the relevant contact at the NCCO aspects related to gender

v. Ensure that all project activities are aligned to all relevant gender policies from the TOR, UNEP and the GEF

vi. Assess and identify potential gender-differentiated impacts of the project

vii. Collect sex-disaggregated baseline data that could be used to monitor potential gender impacts, identifying and documenting existent information gaps. Identify metrics required to ensure gender alignment of the project's knowledge management processes

viii. Identify and liaise with government agencies, NGOs, community-based organizations, and women's associations or groups whose work focuses on gender and the specific area of intervention that can be utilized during project preparation and implementation

ix. Support the National Climate Change Office in the execution of additional tasks as mandated by management

D. Institutional arrangements

The National Gender Expert will report to the Chief Technical Advisor of the CBIT project The Chief Climate Change Officer/Project Director will provide overall oversight of day-to-day supervision and monitoring of the project to ensure that the objectives are achieved.

E. Duty station

The position will be based within the National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management located in Belmopan, Belize.

F. Qualification and Experience

Academic Qualifications

i. Bachelor's degree in gender studies, social sciences, environmental science, environment/ climate policy, public policy, development studies, international development, or a related field is required.

ii. Training or certification in gender analysis, gender mainstreaming, GBV risk mitigation, social inclusion or results-based management will be an asset.

Experience

i. Minimum of 2 years of experience working in gender mainstreaming, gender analysis, gender-responsive planning, capacity building, or related areas

ii. Experience integrating gender considerations into policies, projects, or programmes

iii. Experience working with gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation frameworks will be an asset.

iv. Experience liaising and coordinating with government agencies, NGO's, community-based organizations, women's groups and other stakeholders.

v. Experience facilitating stakeholder consultations and trainings

G. Skills and Knowledge

I. Knowledge of gender-related requirements under international climate frameworks, will be an asset

II. Excellent written and verbal English skills.

III. Strong facilitation and moderation skills

IV. Interpersonal and teamwork skills to work collaboratively

V. Sound knowledge of climate change concepts, including mitigation, adaptation and cross-cutting issues will be an asset

VI. Familiarity with Belize's national climate change frameworks including its NDCs will be an asset

VII. Awareness of international climate processes and frameworks under the UNFCCC will be an asset

VIII. Planning, organizing, and analytical skills.

IX. Result-oriented, flexible, and problem-solving skills.

X. Strong analytical and report writing skills

XI. High level of cultural sensitivity and inclusiveness

H. Application Process

Qualified and interested persons are to submit:

a) A signed cover letter outlining suitability for the position;

b) A detailed Curriculum Vitae or Resume with full details of experience, achievements, qualifications, and (include copies of degrees and certifications),

c) Two (2) recent professional reference letters with contact details

Applications should be identified as – "Application for National Gender Expert – Your name" in the subject matter of the email. All applications must be submitted in one PDF file via email to:

Chief Climate Change Officer
National Climate Change Office
Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, Cayo District
Email: mrvofficer.cc@environment.gov.bz

Deadline: Applications must be received no later than **27 March 2026 at 4:30pm.** Late submissions will not be considered.

The successful applicant will receive written notification of the contract award. Upon selection, the successful applicant must promptly enter into an appropriate contract based on the request for expressions of interest, incorporating any additional provisions as required.

The Ministry reserves the right to cancel this procurement process, at any time before the award of the contract, without incurring any liability.

MINISTRY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY

23 MARCH, 2026

Together Through Weather: Building a Safer and Stronger Belize!

With sincere appreciation to the National Meteorological Service of Belize for their continued dedication and service.
A message from the Ministry of the Public Service and Disaster Risk Management.

Celebrating World Water Day 2026

"Engaging Youth and Strengthening Water Awareness in Belize"

March 18, 2026 - The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management, through its World Water Day Committee, led by the National Hydrological Service, joined the global community in commemorating World Water Day 2026. Observed annually on March 22 under the theme, ***"Where Water Flows, Equality Grows,"*** this United Nations–led observance highlighted the importance of freshwater and the sustainable management of water resources. This year's commemoration underscored the critical role water plays in sustaining communities, ecosystems, agriculture, and national development.

Water remained fundamental to Belize's resilience and prosperity. Reliable water information supported disaster preparedness, agricultural productivity, ecosystem protection, and public health. As climate variability continued to affect rainfall patterns, river flows, and groundwater resources across Belize, strengthening water knowledge and stewardship became increasingly important.

To mark the occasion, the Committee hosted a series of events aimed at engaging young people and raising awareness about water conservation and management.

The commemoration began with a **Youth Water Debate on March 17**, during which students discussed key water challenges and opportunities facing Belize. The debate provided a platform for young voices to explore innovative ideas and highlight the importance of responsible water management.

The Official Opening Ceremonies, held on March 18, 2026, convened government representatives, educators, students, and key partners from across the water sector to underscore the critical role of water data in advancing water security and sustainable water management in Belize. The event highlighted the nation's ongoing commitment to strengthening data-driven decision-making and fostering cross-sector collaboration.

Keynote remarks were delivered by Hon. Orlando Habet, who emphasized the importance of integrated water resource management. Additional remarks were provided by Mr. Sajid Ali, UNICEF Representative for Belize, who reaffirmed UNICEF's support for initiatives that promote equitable access to safe and sustainable water resources.

By engaging youth and fostering national dialogue, the National Hydrological Service aimed to inspire greater awareness of the role every citizen plays in protecting the country's water resources. Empowering young leaders helped ensure that Belize's rivers, aquifers, and ecosystems remained healthy and productive for generations to come.

The public was encouraged to follow the activities and join in recognizing the value of water and the importance of safeguarding this vital resource. (ministry release)

World Water Day Highlights

BWS: As part of the World Water Day activities, the National Hydrological Service hosted an engaging debate at the San Ignacio Resort Hotel, featuring students from the University of Belize and Galen University, centered on Youth and Gender Equality Inclusion in Water Resource Management in Belize.

We congratulate all participating students for their outstanding contributions and insightful perspectives. Special thanks to Kayla Young from Belize Water Services for serving as moderator and guiding the discussion with excellence.

Together, these young leaders demonstrated the power of respectful dialogue in shaping a more equitable and sustainable future. (BWS post)

Water and Gender: Where Water Flows, Equality Grows

UNICEF is proud to stand alongside the Government of Belize and national partners as we mark World Water Day 2026 a moment to reaffirm a simple truth: water is a right, not a privilege. Every child, every woman, every family deserves safe, reliable, climate resilient water.

As Belize advances its Climate Landscape Analysis for Children (CLAC+), World Water Day activities including the national Youth Water Debate and Water Day Fair are helping spark vital conversations about how water, gender equality, and climate change shape children's futures. (UNICEF Post)

BELIZE Social Investment Fund

IDB Inter-American Development Bank

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Request for Bids (RFB)

Belize

Water and Sanitation Program for Rural Arec

BL-L1045 (5753/OC-BL)

BL-L1045-P00023-Rehabilitation of water systems at the village level (supply and installation of water meters, power supply, pump house infrastructure, water tanks, wells, other) Lot 1 and Lot 2

1. This RFB follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in *Development Business, issue no. IDB/BL-L1045-2025 of 4th June 2025*

2. Government of Belize has received a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of *Water and Sanitation Program for Rural Areas,* and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for ***Rehabilitation of water systems at the village level (supply and installation of water meters, power supply, pump house infrastructure, water tanks, wells, other) Lot 1 and Lot 2***

3. The *Belize Social Investment Fund* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for *Rehabilitation of water systems at the village level (supply and installation of water meters, power supply, pump house infrastructure, water tanks, wells, other) Lot 1 and Lot 2*

Scope of Works Includes:

- *Rehabilitation of water tanks*
- *Rehabilitation of pump houses*
- *Upgrade of electrical systems*
- *Rehabilitation of existing fences*
- *Construction of new fences*
- *Rehabilitation of pumps and well heads*
- *Construction of equipment housing (Lot 2).*

4. The delivery/construction period is *Lot 1-includes 7 villages with a duration of 9 months and Lot 2- includes 9 villages with a duration of 12 months.*

5. The RFB will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's *Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2349-15 and* is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the bidding document. Bidders may bid for one or both lots. To qualify for the award of both lots, Bidders should demonstrate fulfillment of the sum for each criteria indicated.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Procurement officer, kyla.cho@sifbelize.org.

6. Qualifications requirements include:

a. Experience as contractor in the construction of at least the number of works of a nature and complexity equivalent to the Works over the period of four (4) years and the work cited should be at least 70 -80 percent complete.
b. The Bidder shall have an average annual construction turnover over the last three (3) years of at least two (2) times the estimated value of the Works.
c. Bidder shall meet the financial ratios
d. Bidders shall meet the minimum liquid assets and/or credit facilities for Lot 1- BZD$ 65,000 and Lot 2-BZD $150,000

7. A complete set of the bidding document in English may be obtained by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address. The bidding document will be sent by email.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before ***April 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m local Belize time.*** Electronic bidding *"shall not"* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line.

9. All bids *"shall"* be accompanied by a *"Bid Security"* of: **Lot 1- BZ $6,500 and Lot 2- BZ $10,500 or for both Lot 1 and Lot 2: BZ $16,500**

10. Bidding Documents may be obtained by eligible bidders from the first address below for a non-refundable fee of BZD $50.00. Requests may be made by written application including email. Written applications must be clearly marked: **"Rehabilitation of water systems at the village level (supply and installation of water meters, power supply, pump house infrastructure, water tanks, wells, other) Lot 1 and Lot 2"**, along with the name, address and contact information of the bidder for which Bidding Documents are being requested. The method of payment will be by cash deposited to, or Bank transfer to the Social Investment Fund's bank account only. A request for the Social Investment Fund's banking details can be made at the address below. The Social Investment Fund is not accepting cash payment currently.

11. The address(es) referred to above is(are):

Address for requesting bidding documents and information

Belize Social Investment Fund
Building C, 4253 Hummingbird Highway Belmopan, Belize
kyla.cho@sifbelize.org
Cc: carlos.tun@sifbelize.org

BELIZE AT IDB ANNUAL MEETING STRENGTHENING DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS AT 2026

Belize participated in the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) 66th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors, held from March 11 to 14, 2026, in Asunción, Paraguay. The Belizean delegation was led by Mrs. Narda Garcia, Chief Executive Officer, Office of the Prime Minister, Investment and Civil Aviation, in her capacity as Alternate Governor to the IDB, and was accompanied by Mr. Kareem Michael, Governor of the Central Bank, and Ms. Cinnamon Bottaro, Belize's Representative on the Board of Directors at the IDB.

The Annual Meetings are the highest decision-making forum of the Inter-American Development Bank Group, bringing together Governors representing the institution's 48 member countries to review the Bank's work, determine its strategic direction, and approve key policy and operational decisions. These meetings offer an important opportunity for Belize to engage with its largest development finance partner and to focus on accelerating economic growth and development through greater private sector engagement.

CEO Garcia utilized the margins of the Annual Meetings in Paraguay to convene a series of high-level bilateral discussions, including with the Republic of China (Taiwan), the OPEC Fund, IDB partners, and a series of private financial institutions.

Throughout the plenary sessions and bilateral engagements, the delegation championed priorities of direct relevance to Belize's national development agenda, including climate resilience and disaster risk management, debt sustainability mechanisms tailored to the vulnerabilities of small states, energy, security, and regional integration. The delegation underscored that these issues are interconnected and require coordinated multilateral responses that place small developing states at the center of policy dialogue.

Discussions addressed matters of strategic importance to Belize to deepen partnerships that support the country's current development agenda. The engagements come at an opportune time, as the 2026–2030 IDB Country Strategy for Belize was just approved. The strategy aligns with Belize's national priorities under Plan Belize 2.0 and adopts a more focused and selective approach aimed at turning recent economic gains into durable, inclusive, and climate-resilient growth.

Commenting on the outcomes of the meeting, CEO Garcia stated: *"The IDB Annual Meeting provided an invaluable platform for Belize to advance its development priorities and deepen partnerships with key allies. Whether in the plenary halls or at the bilateral table, we are ensuring that Belize's voice is heard and that our partnerships translate into tangible results for our people. We leave Asunción energized and with clear pathways forward."*

The Government of Belize remains fully committed to its engagement with the IDB and the international development community, recognizing these partnerships as essential to delivering resilient, inclusive, and sustainable development for all Belizeans. (release)

PORT of BELIZE LTD
A Port with a Global Perspective

SCRAP METAL FOR SALE

Port of Belize Limited Invites Seal Bids for the sale of Scrap Metal as follows:

Location	Description	Quantity
Port of Belize compound	Hyster Forklift#12	One Unit
	Another Reality Boat	One Unit
	HYSTER LIFT TRUCK 1050 E (#7)	One Unit
	FORD E450 SUPER DUTY VAN	One Unit
	HYSTER FORKLIFT INV#16(H50FT)	One Unit
	2019 KIA TRUCK 4X4 SECURITY	One Unit
	Counterweight	Four Units
	Boom Head or Tip sheaves	Two Units
	(INF) 2016 KIA K-2700 CREW CAB	One Unit
	FlatBed trailer	One Unit
	2007 OTTAWA DOCK TRACTOR INV#4	One Unit
	Crane extendable Jack	One Unit
	Lattice boom /Insert section	Four Units
	Terminal Truck frame	One Unit
	P & H CRANE 790	One Unit
	Manitowoc Crane 1969	One Unit
	Spreader	Four Units

All interested Bidders are invited to visit our website at https://portofbelize.com/index.php/category/news/ to view the tender documents.

Bidders are invited for viewing of scrap metal between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on March 23,2026 where queries can be addressed in person or via email: procurement@portofbelize.com

Submit bids to email:procurement@portofbelize.com on March 31,2026. no later than 4:30pm

Documents may be delivered to the Port of Belize Limited during regular working hours.

Emal subject: BID 2026-0001 Sale of Scrap metal 2026

501-223-2439 or 501- 280-2439
Port of Belize Limited
Caesar Ridge Road
Belize City, Belize

March 17, 2026

CALL
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belizetimesadvertisement@yahoo.com
To place advertisement in the Belize Times Newspaper

Belize Commended by ILO

Fulfilling Obligation on International Labour Standards

Submitting to the National Assembly

Belmopan, March 13, 2026.

The Government of Belize, through the Labour Department, has achieved an important milestone in fulfilling its obligations under the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations has commended Belize for meeting its constitutional obligation to submit international labour standards adopted by the International Labour Conference to the National Assembly.

In September 2025, the Government of Belize submitted 43 international labour instruments, including Conventions, Recommendations, and Protocols adopted between 1990 and 2019, to the House of Representatives and the Senate. These submissions addressed previously pending instruments and marked an important step in ensuring Belize's compliance with its obligations under the ILO Constitution.

Further advancing this process, the Government also submitted the Safe and Healthy Working Environment (Consequential Amendments) Convention, 2023 (No. 191), the Safe and Healthy Working Environment Recommendation, 2023 (No. 207), and the Quality Apprenticeships Recommendation, 2023 (No. 208), adopted at the 111th Session of the International Labour Conference. These were submitted to the National Assembly on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, by the Hon. Kareem Musa, Minister of Immigration, Governance, and Labour.

Minister Musa welcomed the recognition from the ILO and emphasized the Government's commitment to strengthening labour governance in Belize. He stated, "Belize takes seriously its responsibilities as a member of the International Labour Organization. By ensuring the submission of these international labour standards to the National Assembly, we are reinforcing our commitment to transparency, good governance, and the protection of workers' rights. This recognition by the ILO Committee of Experts reflects the dedication of our Labour Department and the Government of Belize to align our national policies with international labour standards."

In its observation, the ILO Committee of Experts noted with satisfaction the steps taken by Belize and stated, "The Committee notes with satisfaction the information provided by the Government regarding the submission, on 12 and 15 September 2025, to the House of Representatives and the Senate of 43 instruments adopted by the Conference at 22 sessions held between 1990 and 2019, as well as the Safe and Healthy Working Environment Convention (No. 191) and Recommendation (No. 207), 2023, and the Quality Apprenticeships Recommendation, 2023 (No. 208). The Committee commends the efforts made by the Government in fully meeting its constitutional obligation of submission."

With these submissions, Belize has now fulfilled its constitutional obligation under Article 19 of the ILO Constitution regarding the submission of international labour standards.

The Ministry of Immigration, Governance and Labour remains committed to promoting decent work, strengthening labour governance, and ensuring that Belize continues to align its policies and legislation with international labour standards. (release)

Benque Celebrates

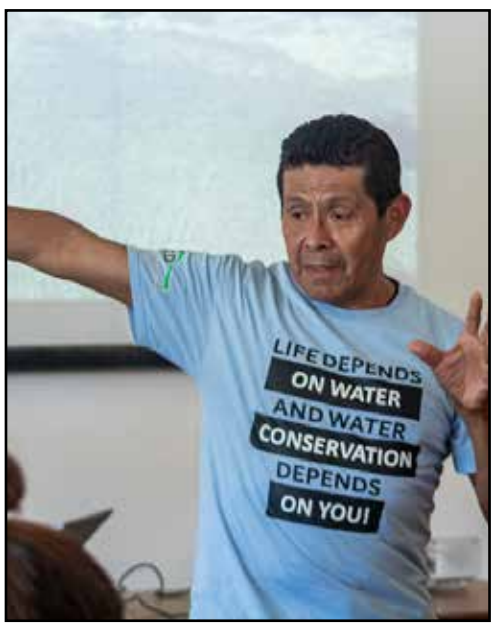
The International Day of Action for Rivers

"Protect Rivers, Protect People"

Benque Mayor Jorge Rosales and 14 other community leaders from both Belize and Guatemala commemorated the "International Day of Action for Rivers" under the theme "Protect Rivers, Protect People" during a three-day workshop at Las Cuevas Research Station in the Heart of the Chiquibul. The three-day workshop aimed to develop a binational action plan for the 14 communities along the Chiquibul, Mopan, and Macal Rivers as part of the project titled "The Voices of the Watersheds." This initiative is in collaboration with TNC and FCD.

The Benque Viejo Town Council is committed to protecting our watersheds, as these are vital to sustaining life and our community water system. Without water, we cannot survive. Let us do our part as residents of Benque Viejo and protect our beautiful Mopan River and the creeks that pass through our town. With consistency and unity under the same goal to protect these three rivers, we can keep them clean and ensure that garbage is placed in its proper place. (post)

At a time when a news media outlet is spewing out the negative of the usual "fish kill" at a time of a fairly intense dry season, this celebration is ignored by them. The Fish Kill in the New Ricer by Orange Walk has been happening since we have lived on its banks given the slowness of the rivers flow, amount of rainfall to help speed it up and the pollution that inevitably will runoff into it. Criminal negligence has never been proven but obviously there is more than can be done in conserving the cleanliness. The government is in the midst of a major initiative to curb pollution in the New River. Let us hope for the sake of the environment and food security that there is success on that front.



Process Expert

Position	Process Expert
Project	"Strengthening national capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework in Belize" *(also referred to as the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project)*
Duty Station	National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
Duration	36 months
Location	Belmopan, Belize
Reports to	Chief Technical Advisor
Accountable to	Project Director/Chief Climate Change Officer

A. Background

Belize is a signatory to key international climate change frameworks, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to global climate action. The Government of Belize ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994 and subsequently acceded to the Paris Agreement in 2016.

Under the Paris Agreement, Belize is obligated to participate in the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), a central mechanism designed to provide robust, transparent, and comparable information on greenhouse gas emissions, progress on mitigation and adaptation efforts, and support provided or received. The ETF also establishes procedures for international technical expert review and is integral to the global stocktake process that assesses collective progress towards the Agreement's long-term goals.

Belize has progressively strengthened its national climate reporting and transparency capacities, including the submission of its First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) and national greenhouse gas inventories in accordance with ETF requirements. However, to ensure sustained compliance and high-quality reporting under the ETF, Belize must further institutionalize robust quality assurance and quality control procedures, standardized data management processes, and systematic documentation practices.

Belize is implementing its first Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project—Strengthening National Capacity for Implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework. The project aims to strengthen the national transparency system through the development of an integrated Transparency Management System, improved data modules (e.g., GHG emissions, adaptation, and NDC tracking), and enhanced institutional coordination. A critical component of this effort is the establishment of clear processes and quality management systems to ensure the integrity, reliability, and traceability of data and reports generated under the ETF.

Therefore, the National Climate Change Office is seeking a Process Expert who will be responsible for designing, strengthening, and overseeing quality assurance and quality control frameworks within the national transparency system. The role will be essential to promote continuous improvement, risk mitigation, and compliance, thereby enhancing the credibility, accuracy, and sustainability of Belize's climate transparency system.

B. Scope of work

The Process Expert will support strengthening the interoperability, institutional arrangements, workflows, and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) framework of the Transparency Management System (TMS) and its four modules (mitigation, adaptation, NDC tracking, and climate finance) to ensure accuracy, efficiency, traceability, and compliance with reporting requirements under the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

C. Tasks description

i. Coordinate with the project core technical team to align process assessments and ensure interoperability across the Transparency Management System.

ii. Assess the current status of processes for data collection, processing, storage, use and reporting; and identify roles & responsibilities, potential/existing bottlenecks, duplication, gaps, synergies, risks and any efficiency gains

iii. Map and document all processes (e.g. contact existing and new data suppliers, establishment of monthly / semi-annual / annual data collection cycles, feedback roundtable with data suppliers for adjustments or corrections, channeling of raw data to the corresponding modules, notification to those responsible for each module, collection and compilation of results and data processed in each module, preparation of reports, dissemination of reports in the media to be determined and publication in the observatory, notification to users of the information, coordination with statistical offices, coordination with planning offices, etc.)

iv. Perform QA/QC analysis for the processes, including data collection, of the Transparency Management System and it's four modules, including mitigation, adaptation, NDC tracking and climate finance.

v. Provide technical assistance and guidance to sector leads on reducing data and methodological uncertainties to meet QA/QC requirements.

vi. Develop and implement a QA/QC plan for the sectors covered in Belize's national policies and GHG inventory.

vii. Provide recommendations on processes related to transparency system to strengthen institutional arrangements and workflows

viii. Support quality review deliverables produced by external consultancies

ix. Develop and implement guidance and training material for staff in lead and line agencies on the application of QA/QC procedures in the Transparency Management System

x. Review UNFCCC reporting outputs and the Transparency Management System's generation of Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) reports and UNFCCC reporting

tables to ensure internal consistency, traceability and compliance with agreed QA/QC procedures.

xi. Support the Senior Transparency Officer in tasks to ensure QA/QC requirements are met

xii. Support the National Climate Change Office in the execution of additional tasks as mandated by management

D. Institutional arrangements

The Process Expert will report to the Chief Technical Advisor of the CBIT project The Chief Climate Change Officer/Project Director will provide overall oversight of day-to-day supervision and monitoring of the project to ensure that the objectives are achieved.

E. Duty station

The position will be based within the National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management located in Belmopan, Belize.

F. Qualification and Experience

Academic Qualifications

i. Bachelor's degree in environmental science, environmental studies, social sciences, public policy, economics, statistics, quality management, project management or a related field is required.

ii. Training or certification in Quality Management, M&E, Results-based Management, or data governance will be an asset

Experience

i. Minimum of 3 years of relevant experience in process design, QA/QC systems, MRV/transparency, or related fields

ii. Experience developing or implementing standard operating procedures (SOPs), workflow documentation will be an asset.

G. Skills and Knowledge

I. Excellent written and verbal English skills.

II. Strong facilitation and moderation skills

III. Interpersonal and teamwork skills to work collaboratively

IV. Sound knowledge of climate change concepts, including mitigation, adaptation and cross-cutting issues will be an asset

V. Familiarity with Belize's national climate change frameworks including its NDCs will be an asset

VI. Awareness of international climate processes and frameworks under the UNFCCC including the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework will be an asset

VII. Effectively plans and prioritizes workload.

VIII. Planning, organizing, and analytical skills.

IX. Result-oriented, flexible, and problem-solving skills.

H. Abilities and Competencies

X. Strong facilitation and stakeholder engagement abilities

XI. Ability to work independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team

XII. Ability to manage multiple tasks and meet tight deadlines

XIII. High level of attention to detail and quality of outputs

XIV. Demonstrated ability to support institutional strengthening processes

XV. Strong communication and report writing skills

I. Application Process

Qualified and interested persons are to submit:

a) A signed cover letter outlining suitability for the position;

b) A detailed Curriculum Vitae or Resume with full details of experience, achievements, qualifications, and (include copies of degrees and certifications),

c) Two (2) recent professional reference letters with contact details

Applications should be identified as – "Application for Process Expert – Your name" in the subject matter of the email. All applications must be submitted in one PDF file via email to:

Chief Climate Change Officer
National Climate Change Office
Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, Cayo District
Email: mrvofficer.cc@environment.gov.bz

Deadline: Applications must be received no later than **27 March 2026 at 4:30pm.** Late submissions will not be considered.

The successful applicant will receive written notification of the contract award. Upon selection, the successful applicant must promptly enter into an appropriate contract based on the request for expressions of interest, incorporating any additional provisions as required.

The Ministry reserves the right to cancel this procurement process, at any time before the award of the contract, without incurring any liability.

Comité Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria

Belize's Passes Presidency to Guatemala

March 17, 2026 - Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries, today handed over the presidency of CIRSA, the Comité Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria, or the International Regional Committee on Agricultural Health.

CIRSA is a regional body composed of Ministers of Agriculture of the Central American region and is the parent organization of OIRSA, the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health. Belize has held the presidency of CIRSA since April 2025, when the 72nd Ordinary CIRSA meeting was held in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye.

The presidency was handed over to Ing. Mária Fernanda Rivera Dávila, Minister of Agriculture of Guatemala, with Minister Ferguson delivering a report on the work achieved during his presidency. Minister Ferguson was thanked for the achievements and endeavours during his tenure, and a token of appreciation, a flying locust that symbolizes the existence of OIRSA, was presented to him.

The 73rd Ordinary CIRSA Meeting took place on March 17-18, in Guatemala City. Reports and discussions on regional plant and animal health issues, such as the New World Screwworm, will take place as part of the meeting. (post)

Belize's move to improve Food Security as per planBelize 2.0 is never-ending in its scope. Regional integration is key in improving importation paradigms and raising exportation numbers. As Belize becomes one of the bread baskets of the Caribbean it is also looked upon by our neigbours as a source of variety in food commodities.

GoB-ICDF-IDB

Revitalizing the PG Highway & Empowering Belize's Workforce

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño signed two pivotal loan agreements on behalf of Belize, paving the way for a revitalized Philip Goldson International Highway and new opportunities to boost employment and workforce participation nationwide.

Through a new partnership with Taiwan's ICDF, Belize will transform 26.5 kilometers of roadway into a modern, safer route. The project will rebuild the road from the ground up, enhance safety through improved alignments, upgrade drainage to prevent flooding, and introduce advanced road safety features.

The second agreement, through a joint partnership with the ICDF and IDB, is set to empower Belize's workforce by modernizing employment services, enhancing labour market data, and breaking down barriers for women, youth, migrants, and other vulnerable groups seeking meaningful work.

Dr. Yu-Lin Huang, the Secretary General of the ICDF, and Ms. Karla González, Country representative for the Inter-American Development Bank, signed on behalf of Belize's development partners.

Technical Administrative Support Officer

Position	Technical Administrative Support Officer
Project	"Strengthening national capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework in Belize" *(also referred to as the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project)*
Duty Station	National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
Duration	36 months
Location	Belmopan, Belize
Reports to	Chief Technical Advisor
Accountable to	Project Director/Chief Climate Change Officer

A. Background

Belize is a signatory to key international climate change frameworks, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to global climate action. The Government of Belize ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994 and subsequently acceded to the Paris Agreement in 2016.

Under the Paris Agreement, Belize is obligated to participate in the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), a central mechanism designed to provide robust, transparent, and comparable information on greenhouse gas emissions, progress on mitigation and adaptation efforts, and support provided or received. The ETF also establishes procedures for international technical expert review and is integral to the global stocktake process that assesses collective progress towards the Agreement's long-term goals.

Belize has progressively strengthened its national climate reporting and transparency capacities. The country has submitted key climate reports to the UNFCCC, including its First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) and national greenhouse gas inventories in line with ETF requirements. Despite this progress, Belize's existing systems and capacities require further consolidation to consistently meet ETF requirements and ensure high-quality, timely, and systematic reporting. To address these gaps, Belize is implementing its first CBIT project—Strengthening National Capacity for Implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework. This initiative aims to strengthen the national transparency system through the development of an integrated Transparency Management System, enhanced data modules (e.g., GHG emissions, adaptation, NDC tracking), and improved institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement.

To support the effective implementation of this project, the National Climate Change Office is seeking a Technical Administrative Support Officer. The role will be essential in ensuring timely delivery of outputs, proper documentation of project processes, and effective coordination among stakeholders involved in the implementation of Belize's CBIT project and the strengthening of the national transparency framework.

B. Scope of work

The Technical Administrative Support Officer will oversee the project's administrative and financial activities, providing direct support to the core technical team and consultants to ensure the timely delivery of project outputs. The role will also contribute to strengthening the capacity of the national transparency team, including supporting the training-of-trainers process, with a particular focus on the training components of the transparency system. In addition, this position will be primarily responsible for drafting all reports to the Implementing Agency, including monitoring and evaluation reports such as mid-year Progress Reports and Project Implementation Review Reports.

C. Tasks description

i. Provide logistical and administrative support for project implementation, including consultations, coordination meetings and training sessions.

ii. Support engagement and coordination with higher education institutions and other stakeholders.

iii. Maintain contact databases and support stakeholder communications

iv. Assist in data gathering, compilation, and documentation for project deliverables and reporting requirements.

v. Provide administrative support in the testing and validation of systems and tools developed under the project.

vi. Assist in procurement processes, including canvassing, preparation of requisitions, and coordination with suppliers in accordance with applicable procedures (including GOB and UNEP processes).

vii. Support preparation and tracking of contracts, consultancy agreements, and service providers

viii. Maintain accurate financial records, monitor expenditures against approved budgets, and support financial reporting.

ix. Maintain an organized filing and records management system for all project documentation.

x. Prepare administrative, financial, and progress reports for the Implementing Agency and Project Steering Committee.

xi. Assist in preparing financial documentation for audits and financial reviews

xii. Record and draft minutes of meetings and follow up on action items.

xiii. Track project timelines, milestones, and deliverables to support effective implementation.

xiv. Assist in formatting and finalizing technical reports and presentations

xv. Provide administrative and coordination support to the Chief Technical Advisor and Project Director.

xvi. Perform other administrative and financial tasks as reasonably assigned.

D. Institutional arrangements

The Technical Administrative Support Officer will work under the direct supervision of the Chief Technical Advisor of the CBIT project. The Chief Climate Change Officer/Project Director will undertake the day-to-day supervision and monitoring of the project to ensure that the objectives are achieved.

E. Duty station

The position will be based within the National Climate Change Office located at theMinistry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management in Belmopan, Belize

F. Qualification and Experience

Minimum a cademic qualifications and experience

Bachelor's degree in finance, business administration, economics, accounting, project management or a related field with a minimum of 3 years' professional experience in administrative and accounting work, is required. (Alternatively, candidates without a degree must demonstrate a minimum of 5 years' relevant experience in finance, administrative support, project support or accounting work.)

i. Experience supporting work planning, coordination of meetings/events, procurement, stakeholder engagement, and preparation of documentation for project implementation.

ii. Experience working in financial management of development projects and in liaising and cooperating with government officials, NGOs, mass media, is an asset.

iii. Experience in monitoring and reporting and understanding in transparency management systems is an asset;

iv. Knowledge in / experience in reporting under the UNFCCC is an asset

v. Experience organizing events, workshops, and training sessions, including logistical and reporting support.

vi. Experience/ familiarity working with government procedures for procurement, finance, and project management; familiarity with donor reporting requirements (e.g., UNDP, GCF, World Bank) is an asset.

G. Skills and Knowledge

ii. Familiarity with climate change–related projects, reporting frameworks (NDCs, BTRs, NCs), or MRV systems is desirable.

iii. Ability to compile, process, and check project-related datasets and prepare structured inputs for reports.

iv. Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint) with advanced Excel skills; experience with project management software, databases, or statistical tools is an asset.

H. Application Process

Qualified and interested persons are to submit:

a) A signed cover letter outlining suitability for the position;

b) A detailed Curriculum Vitae or Resume with full details of experience, achievements, qualifications, and (include copies of degrees and certifications),

c) Two (2) recent professional reference letters with contact details

Applications should be identified as – "Application for Tech Admin Support – Your name" in the subject matter of the email. All applications must be submitted in one PDF file via email to:

Chief Climate Change Officer
National Climate Change Office
Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, Cayo District
Email: mrvofficer.cc@environment.gov.bz

Deadline: Applications must be received no later than **27 March 2026 at 4:30pm.** Late submissions will not be considered.

The successful applicant will receive written notification of the contract award. Upon selection, the successful applicant must promptly enter into an appropriate contract based on the request for expressions of interest, incorporating any additional provisions as required.

The Ministry reserves the right to cancel this procurement process, at any time before the award of the contract, without incurring any liability.

Multiple Manatee Strandings

Belize Fisheries Department Urges Heightened Caution

March 03, 2026 - The Belize Fisheries Department is issuing a serious and urgent reminder to all vessel operators following multiple manatee strandings recorded across the country during the month of February 2026. The Belize Marine Mammal Stranding Network documented eight manatee strandings in Corozal, Belize City, Placencia, Gales Point, and Hopkins. Of particular concern are three confirmed cases in which injuries consistent with vessel strikes were identified.

On February 11, an adult female manatee was recorded in Belize City with injuries consistent with vessel impact as the cause of death, and on February 14, an adult female manatee was found in Hopkins with injuries also consistent with vessel impact, confirmed as the cause of death. On February 16, an adult male manatee was documented in Belize City, again with a watercraft determined to be responsible. These cases represent preventable losses and reflect continued non- compliance with safe boating practices in critical manatee habitats. Additional strandings during February also included a male calf at Consejo Shores, with stranding cause undetermined, and a male calf in Placencia on February 13, attributed to perinatal causes. On February 14, authorities also responded to strandings in Gales Point involving an adult female manatee and in Corozal involving an adult male manatee. On February 18, a male calf was documented in Gales Point. The causes of stranding for these three cases remain undetermined. While not all strandings have been linked directly to vessel strikes, the concentration of incidents within a short time frame, combined with confirmed watercraft-related mortalities, is cause for significant concern.

The Greater Caribbean Manatee (Trichechus manatus manatus) is a fully protected species under the laws of Belize. It is illegal to harm, harass, disturb, or kill manatees or any other marine mammal. Violations carry substantial penalties, including fines and potential prosecution. Vessel strikes remain one of the leading human-induced threats to manatees nationally, particularly in shallow coastal waters, river mouths, lagoons, and seagrass beds where these marine mammals feed, rest, and nurse their young.

The Belize Fisheries Department emphasizes that all mariners have a legal and ethical obligation to operate vessels responsibly. Reduced speeds in manatee zones, strict adherence to no-wake regulations, and maintaining a constant lookout are necessary safeguards designed to prevent injury and death to protected marine wildlife. Areas including Corozal, Belize City, Gales Point, Hopkins, Placencia, and adjacent lagoon systems are recognized manatee habitats and require heightened caution at all times.

The Fisheries Department continues to collaborate with national partners, including the Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute (CMARI), Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD), Wildtracks, and Ecomar to investigate strandings, conduct necropsies, and strengthen monitoring and enforcement efforts. The public is urged to report any injured, distressed, or deceased marine mammals immediately to the Belize Fisheries Department or its Marine Mammal Stranding Network partners to support rapid response and data collection. The Belize Fisheries Department will maintain active monitoring and enforcement, and calls upon all vessel operators to exercise extreme caution to ensure the protection of Belize's marine mammals. (release)

Belize National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let Your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives.

With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the

observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and, in that peace which the world itself cannot give.

And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.

Amen.

BLUE BOND AND FINANCE PERMANENCE UNIT
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: PROCUREMENT OFFICER (TRAINEE)

Duty Station: Belize City

The Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit (BBFP), established within the Office of the Prime Minister, leads the coordination and implementation of Belize's Blue Bond commitments. The Unit ensures that the Government of Belize fulfils its obligations under the Blue Loan Agreement (BLA) and Conservation Funding Agreement (CFA), in partnership with the Belize Blue Investment Company (BIC) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Additionally, the BBFP is also charged with pursuing an innovative new financing model: Project for Finance Permanence (PfP) along with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to further assist Belize in meeting and sustaining their Nationally Determine Contributions (NDCs) and Conservation goals.

Position Overview

We are seeking a motivated and detail-oriented **Procurement Officer (Trainee)** to support and progressively lead procurement activities across BBFP programs. This is an entry-level professional role designed to build strong procurement expertise through training, mentoring, and hands-on experience.

Key Responsibilities

- Support and manage procurement planning and scheduling
- Prepare procurement documents (RFQs, RFPs, TORs, contracts)
- Coordinate and support evaluation and selection processes
- Monitor contracts, deliverables, and supplier performance
- Maintain procurement records and support audit compliance
- Assist with logistics, reporting, and administrative processes
- Participate in training and capacity-building programs

Qualifications & Experience

- Bachelor's degree in Business, Finance, Accounting, Public Administration, or related field
- Minimum 2 years' experience in Administration, finance, procurement, or project support
- Strong skills in:
  - o Microsoft Office & document management
  - o Coordination, organization, and multitasking
  - o Clear report writing and communication

Interested applicants may request a copy of the Full Terms of Reference by **emailing:** projectmanager.bbfpunit@opm.gov.bz with the subject line: "*Procurement Officer (Trainee) TOR.*" The Full TOR is also available on the **Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit's Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages.** Applications must be submitted no later than **Friday, April 10, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.**

All applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview. The Committee will conduct due diligence to verify the information provided in the application and during the interview process.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that **DaQuan Li** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Dengs Supermarket (Corozal)"** located on 7th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jia Mei Chen** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"New San's Store"** located on 5th Avenue/1st Street South, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Mayra Tzul** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Amigoss D'L Mar Restaurant & Bar"** located in Copper Bank Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Lily Yajaira Carias** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Liliana's Hideout Spot"** located in Concepcion Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Sandra L. Carias** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Carias Cool Spot"** located in Concepcion Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Joaquin Coba** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Joaquin Cool Spot"** located in Louisville Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Rubisela L. Briceno** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Liliana's Hideout Spot"** located in Chan Chen Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Juliana Gorosica** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Gorosica D Shop"** located in Copper Bank Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Normi Perez** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Normi's Ice Box"** located in Libertad Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Ednir H. Cruz** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Sky Icy Blends"** located in Sarteneja Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Miguel A. Villamil** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Mike's Cool Spot"** located in Patchakan Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Antonia Castaneda** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Value Supermarket"** located in San Roman Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **James Grant** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"J Bell's Grocery"** located in San Andres Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Mirja E. Reyes** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"K.R.A. Grocery"** located on Belmopan Street, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Porfirio Reyes** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"P.R. Lin & Sons"** located in Xaibe Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Arnulfo Villamil** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"K & C Restaurant"** located in Xaibe Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Osacar A. Uk** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Oscy's Mini Shop"** located in Ranchito Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Minelia R. Romero** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"The Backyard Chill Spot"** located in Cristo Rey Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Obed J. Cob** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Obi's Spot MC"** located in San Pedro Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Lisbeth L. Ek** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Top Stop Spot"** located in San Narciso Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Ofelia Yam** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Ofelia's Shop"** located in PatchakanVillage, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jesucristo Loza** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"JNL Shop"** located in Patchakan Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Delcy D. Pena** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"R & D Shop"** located in Louisville Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Celso R. Ku** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Nay's Shop"** located in Patchakan Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Marisela Balam** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Marisela Beers To Go"** located in Chan Chen Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Florencio Cob** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Aces Bar"** located in Copper Bank Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Copper Horse Inn Limited** is applying for a **Hotel Liquor License (Single Bar)** to be operated at **"Copper Horse Inn Limited"** located on 2nd Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Rosalia Peraza** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"A & B Brew"** located in San Narciso Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Ruby Chan** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"J & J Restaurant"** located in San Narciso Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Orlando Olivera** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Gladis Place"** located in Copper Bank Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Ardely H. Cruz** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"LC Shop"** located in Sarteneja Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Mildrey Cawich** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"El Crustaceo Cascarudo Cevicheria & Cocteleria"** located in San Narciso Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Patricia Trejio** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Dragon Bar"** located in Caledonia Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Gloria Tulcey** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Celina's Kitchen"** located at 9 Mls. P.G. Hwy., Ladyville Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jose R. Tzul** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Marisqueria Las Pargos Restaurant"** located in Paraiso Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jose A. Alcoser** is applying for a **Hight Club Liquor License** to be operated at **"C & B Night Club"** located in Baeza Layout, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Cesar E. Vasquez** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"The Road House Cool Spot"** located on Sarteneja Road, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Ekmer Carlos** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Suzai Shop"** located in Progresso Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Johan Quiroa** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Snobite Shaved Ice"** located in Copper Bank Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Sandra I. Chinchilla** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Sandy's Tasty Food & Mini Shop"** located in San Andres Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Alicia Torres** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Buccaneer's Palapa"** located on Consejo Road , Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Angel E. Patt** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Lucky Angel"** located on 5th Street North, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Estilito A. Carlos Jr.** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Chat Pucte"** located in Progresso Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Luis A. Velasquez** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Mix Entertainment"** located on 1st Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Canjin Chen** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Rainbow Town Supermarket (CZL)"** located on 5th Street, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Devin Correa** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naim's Sports Bar"** located in Libertad Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Rafael Velasquez** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"R.J.V.'s Grocery Store"** located on Altamira Road, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Kamile S. Ramirez** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Kam's Mini Groceries & Fast Food"** located at # 4527 Morning Glory Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Lindsay Carrasco** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"The Owl Grill & Winery"** located at # 2 Dolphin Drive, Buttonwood Bay Blvd., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Yan Hui Wu** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Yummy Snacks"** located at # 43 Forest Drive, City of Belmopan, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

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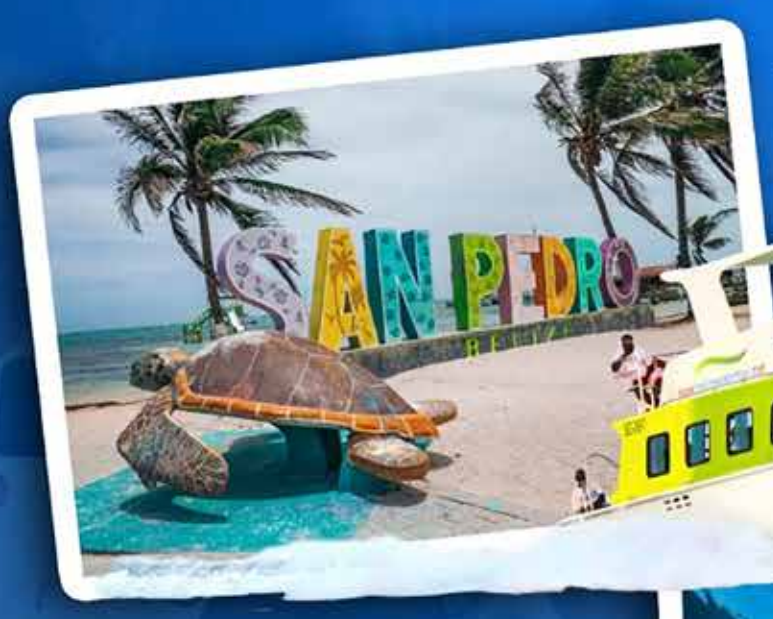

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Santa Elena/San Ignacio

Aaron Mai: *"need a renewed vision and strategic direction"*

"San Ignacio and Santa Elena stand at an important moment in their development. Our twin towns have incredible potential—rich culture, hardworking people, beautiful natural surroundings, and a strong tourism foundation. However, it is clear that we need a renewed vision and strategic direction to truly unlock that potential and strengthen our local economy.

For many years, our community has relied on its natural charm and hospitality, we want San Ignacio and Santa Elena to remain competitive and prosperous, we must embrace new ideas, modern tourism strategies, and sustainable economic initiatives that create opportunities for our residents.

A fresh vision means investing in tourism infrastructure, supporting small businesses, enhancing our cultural and historical attractions, and creating experiences that encourage visitors to stay longer and spend more within our local economy. It also means working together—government, private sector, and community members—to ensure that development benefits everyone.

San Ignacio and Santa Elena are not lacking in potential; what we need now is bold leadership, innovative thinking, and a clear plan to move our towns forward. By embracing a new vision, we can create more jobs, attract new investment, and secure a stronger future for the next generation.

Future Focus! New Visionary Leadership!"

Picture Courtesy of Mrs. Bryony

Mayor for a Day Winners

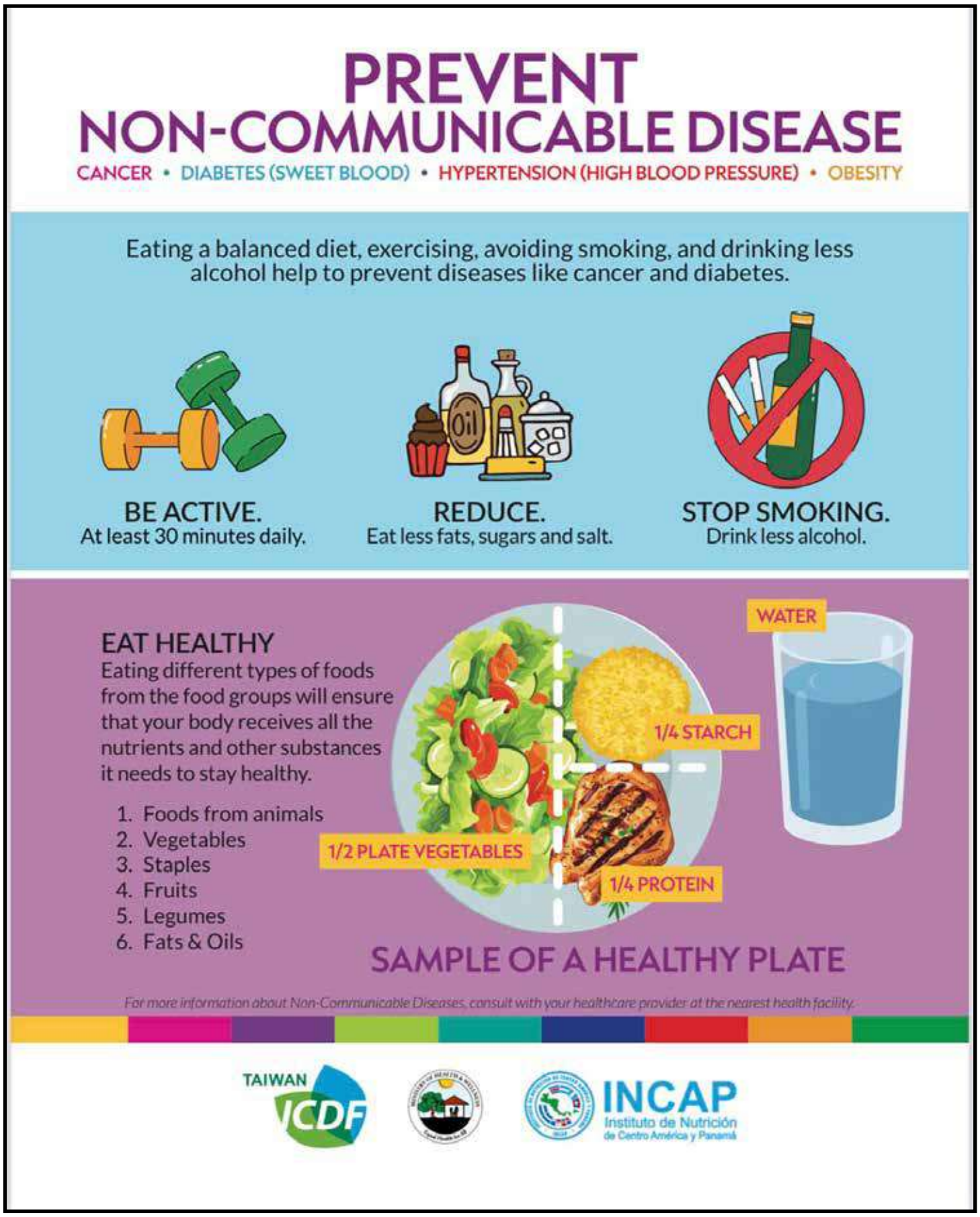
Eldon Lewis, Sigourney Flowers, Cameron Myvett

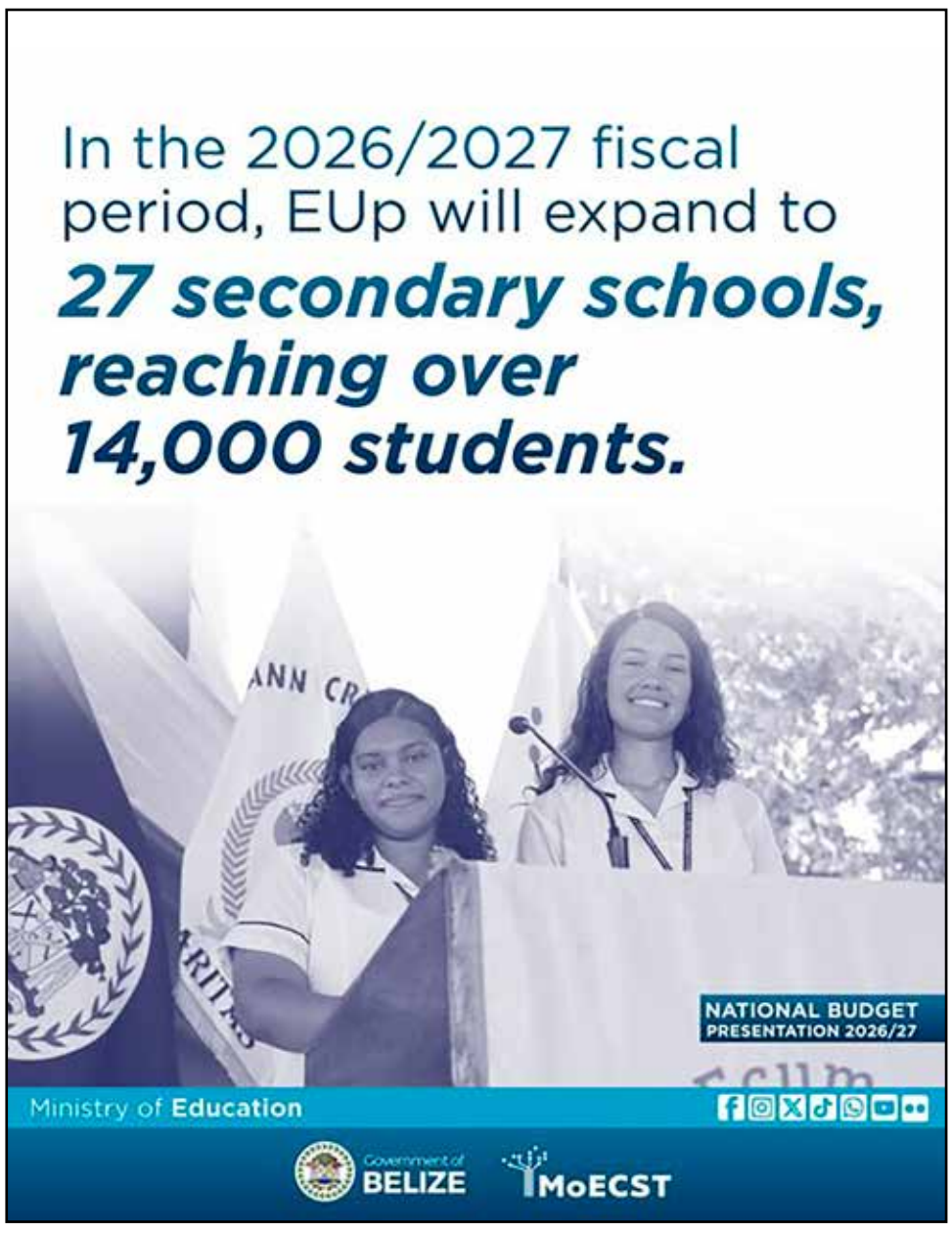
Welcomed by Mayor Bernard Wagner, Councilor Kaya Cattouse and City Administrator Dr. Pitts, the three students who placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the Mayor for a Day Competition gathered at City Hall to share their insights and receive their prizes.

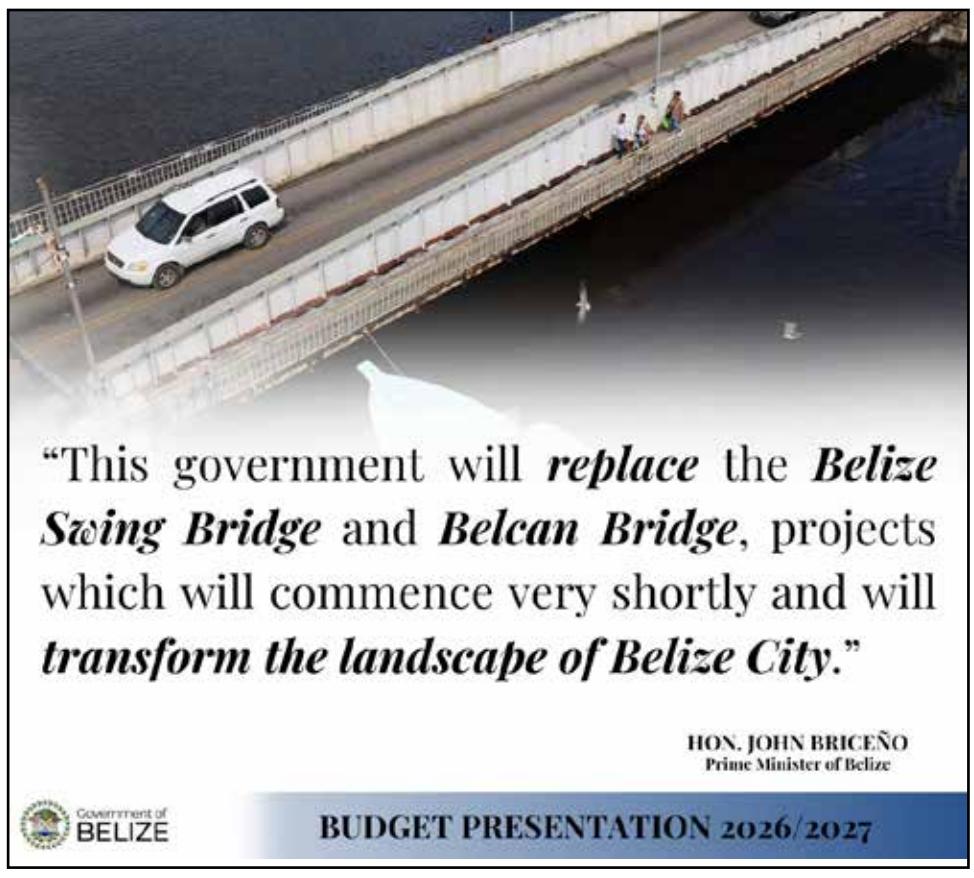
A big CONGRATULATION goes out to our outstanding winners: Eldon Lewis, Sigourney Flowers, and Cameron Myvett! Your hard work, ideas, and commitment to this initiative are all inspiring. We are proud to see young leaders stepping forward and sharing their vision for Belize City.

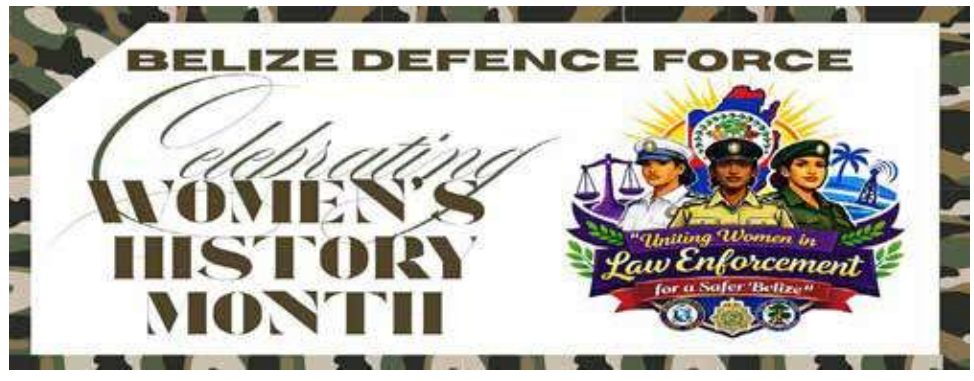
This annual activity is hosted by the Belize City Council in partnership with the Child Advisory Body (CAB) and supported by UNICEF Belize.

Stay tuned for updates on His Worship Eldon Lewis and his upcoming day as Mayor of Belize City! (post)




In the 2026/2027 fiscal period, EUp will expand to
27 secondary schools, reaching over 14,000 students.
NATIONAL BUDGET PRESENTATION 2026/27
Ministry of Education
Government of BELIZE
MoECST


"This government will replace the Belize Swing Bridge and Belcan Bridge, projects which will commence very shortly and will transform the landscape of Belize City."
HON. JOHN BRICEÑO
Prime Minister of Belize
Government of BELIZE
BUDGET PRESENTATION 2026/2027


BELIZE DEFENCE FORCE
Celebrating WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
"Uniting Women in Law Enforcement for a Safer Belize"

HEALTHY EATING
CREATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES FOR ALL
Consume water instead of sweetened drinks
Increase daily consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables
Reduce consumption of sugary and fatty foods
Reduce salt/sodium intake
Read food labels
PAHO
Pan American Health Organization
World Health Organization
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS